



*“Mountain
vineyards,
classical
winemaking,
limited
production”*

**ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN
ESTATE**

*High above Alexander Valley
Sonoma County*

Planted 1980

Chardonnay selection:

Old Wente 100%

Elevation 2,000 feet

Soil: volcanic-origin Kidd series
and decomposed shale

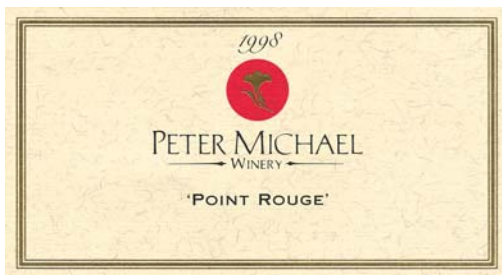
Exposure: west-southwest



PETER MICHAEL
WINERY

1998
POINT ROUGE

Chardonnay



**WINEMAKER
NOTES**

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oint Rouge, our rarest Chardonnay, is our winemaker's selection of the absolute top barrels from the entire vintage. In 1998 the winemaker selected six barrels, all of which came from a single block of old vines on Alexander Mountain Estate, formerly known as Gauer Ranch, high above Alexander Valley. These selected barrels are aged an additional three months sur lies for enhanced richness and flavor.

The vineyard block, known as "Upper Barn" is renowned for its low yielding vines and intense fruit, attributes of its parentage - the "Old Wente" clone. Using this as the foundation for quality, Point Rouge exemplifies our most complex and concentrated wine from the cellar, a wine that is homage to its terroir.

1998 was a cool and low yielding vintage for this vineyard. Classic Burgundian vinification and extended barrel aging yielded a wine with bright acidity, great extract and persistent length.

**TASTING
NOTES**

The hallmark of Point Rouge is its rich balance of texture, elegance and length on the palate. An expansive, aromatic wine suffused with layers of dried apricots, hazelnuts and lemon-lime. Hints of pineapple with a mineral tone. On the palate, layered richness and focused extracted fruit. Given its concentration of flavor, structure and acidity, we expect this wine to evolve in the bottle for 5-6 years from release.

**WINE
INFORMATION**

Harvested: October 20th, 1998
100% Barrel fermented, 80% new Louis Latour French oak barrels 100% of cuvée made using indigenous yeast
Barrel aged sur lies 14 months with weekly bâtonnage
Bottled by hand without fining or filtration December 15, 1999
Alcohol: 14.1 %; pH 3.55; TA 5.7g/L
Production: 280 six-bottle cases 750 ml
Release date: September 1, 2000