NAPA VALLEY

BUCEPHALUS™

RED WINE BLEND

2006

Alexander the Great rode a single horse into every battle:
a majestic black stallion named Bucephalus.

The Story of Bucephalus (355 BC – 326 BC)

Bucephalus *(bu-ceph-a-lus)* was the famous and well-loved stallion of Alexander the Great whose breeding was said to have been of the "best Thessalian strain" from the renowned stallion-breeding region of Thessaly, Greece. The horse was reported to have been a massive creature with a massive head (Bucephalus means "Ox-Head" in Ancient Greek), and is described as having a black coat with a large white star on his brow.

Legend tells that a 12-year old Alexander won the horse, Bucephalus, in a wager with his father, Philip II of Macedon. A horse dealer offered the horse to Alexander's father for an enormous sum, but the animal appeared to be unstable and could not be tamed. Since no one could temper the animal, Philip wasn't interested, but Alexander promised to pay for the horse should he fail to tame it. Alexander was allowed to try and surprised everyone by subduing the steed. Alexander spoke soothingly and turned the horse away from the imposing sun so that it didn't see the shadow that seemed to distress it, and so tamed the horse. Alexander named his prize stallion Bucephalus and rode him for nearly two decades and through numerous battles to create his mighty empire. Bucephalus died of battle wounds in 326BC in Alexander's last battle. Alexander founded the city of Bucephala (thought to be the modern town of Jhelum, Pakistan) in memory of his wonderful horse.

Ancient stories of Alexander present a mythic variant of Bucephalus' origin. In these tales, the colt, whose heroic attributes surpassed even those of Pegasus, is bred and presented to Philip on his own estates. The mythic attributes of the animal are further reinforced in the story by the Delphic Oracle, who tells Philip that the destined king of the world will be the one who rides *Bucephalus*, a horse with the mark of a white star on his haunch.