



## 2009 "The Premier" Cabernet Sauvignon GHIELMETTI VINEYARD • LIVERMORE VALLEY

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

The Steven Kent Winery has been producing Cabernet Sauvignon since the 1996 vintage from the historic vineyards of the Livermore Valley wine country. Steven Kent was founded in Livermore Valley because the region offers world-class quality the equal of any other Cabernet-producing area in the world. Over time, we have expanded the number of great sites from which we harvest Cabernet. All of these sites are immaculately farmed and have displayed the ability to produce fruit of the highest possible quality and distinctiveness. These vineyard sites represent the best that the Livermore Valley has to offer.

After harvest, fermentation, and barreling down of the wines, we taste all of our Cabernet lots individually and often (we always vinify vineyard sites, and within the vineyard sites-individual clones of Cabernet-separately) to determine which lots have the potential to show all the beauty and greatness with which these sites are imbued. Generally, we will have 125-150 separate barrels of Cabernet to evaluate. In 2009, as with previous years, only four of the 130 barrels were deemed being of great-enough quality to earn our top mark: The Premier. We do not have particular vineyard sites or clones automatically slated for inclusion in The Premier. Rigorous blind tasting and barrel selection determine the final blend. Clone 30 from the Ghielmetti Estate vineyard was the best lot of Cabernet from the vintage and makes up 100% of this offering.

The 2009 is one of the most profound Cabernet we have made. From the aromatics of black fruit: cassis, plum, black cherry, to notes of semi-sweet chocolate, graphite, and dried sage; to the rich, mouth-filling entry; to the substantially tannic mid-palate, and lengthy finish, this wine is a hallmark of the potential of the Livermore Valley.

As with all of our red wines, The Premier – 2009 was bottled without filtration and fining. Fewer than 100 cases were produced. We hope you enjoy.

### **HISTORY**

The Steven Kent Winery was started in 1996 with the planting of our vineyard site and a mission to produce distinctive wines from the Livermore Valley that could compete with any other appellation. Concentrating first on Cabernet Sauvignon, our new estate vineyard provides us with impeccable fruit from which to make our distinctive and versatile wines such as LOLA.

### **VINTAGE**

**Harvest Date:** October 28, 2009

**Fruit:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit came in with brix levels of 25° and a complex, ripe flavor profile. Alcohol 14.8%.

**Fermentation:** After destemming and crushing the fruit was fermented in 1 ¾ ton open-top fermentors. It went through primary fermentation and extended maceration in bin then malolactic fermentation was induced in barrel.

**Aging:** 100% new French oak barrels were used for aging. Taransaud, Le Grand, and François-Frères are favored coopers.

**Time in Barrel:** 24 months.

**Production:** Fewer than 100 cases were produced in this vintage.

### **VINEYARD**

**Location:** The Ghielmetti Vineyard is located on Reuss Road, 3.2 miles east of our Barrel Room.

**Soil:** This vineyard is configured into 14 blocks and planted in rocky loam.

**Training:** Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) trellising method.