

T H E  
**STEVEN KENT**  
W I N E R Y

## *2008 Malbec – Ghielmetti Vineyard, Livermore Valley*

**The Site -** The Ghielmetti Vineyard encompasses 64.86 acres of vines and is located 3.4 miles east of our Tesla Road Barrel Room. Planted to 11 different grapes on 20 distinct blocks, this topographically varied vineyard has become one of the finest sites in the Livermore Valley for Bordeaux varietals. Indeed, of 64.86 acres, the 38.33 planted to the classic grapes reveal both our commitment to these varietals and our sense of the potential quality of the vineyard. A mixture of soils ranging from fine sandy loam at the western edge of the site to clay intrusions uphill to the east have been matched to the specific characteristics of each clone, maximizing the potential for world class quality.

**The Block -** Block 13 is the home to Malbec, Clone 595. This block, which contains 66 rows and 5,940 vines, was grafted over from Petite Sirah in 2006 and is the only block of Malbec on Ghielmetti Vineyard. Block 13 is composed of two soil types: Zamora silt loam and Perkins loam. Situated on the Northern flat of the vineyard, Block 6 sits at an elevation of approximately 500' above sea level. Other details:

- Size: 5.67 acres
- Rootstock: 101-14
- Spacing: 6' x 7'
- Vines: 1,048/acre
- Orientation: N-S
- Yield: 1.42 tons/acre

**The Barrels -** Only two barrels were found to offer the world-class quality characteristics we wanted for this wine.

<b>Barrel Designation:</b>	<b>07-419</b>	<b>07-420</b>
<b>Cooper</b> :	Francois Freres	Radoux
<b>Country</b> :	France	America
<b>Forest</b> :	Allier	Appalachian
<b>Toast Level</b> :	M	M+
<b>Barrel Heads:</b>	Toasted	Toasted

**The Wine-** The Malbec is the last of the classic Bordeaux varieties to enter our Small Lot Offering program, and the last of the blocks to be harvested in 2008. Malbec is planted only to a small degree in Bordeaux. It has found its greatest expression of quality and acreage in Argentina. Very much different than Merlot and Cabernet Franc in its *sauvage* fruit quality, Malbec is a wine of immense interest. In the nose, this offering is laden with aromas of crushed dried blackberry, blueberry, and other less easily identifiable dark fruits. As all the wood used for the aging of this wine was new, there are beautiful notes of subtly sweet and warm toasted barrel notes up-front. Because Malbec fruit aromas and flavors tend to be exuberant (and they are in this offering), the new oak serves as an appropriate foundation note and counterpoint. In the mouth, the wine enters with viscosity and silkiness, but it is not long until the wine's substantial tannins make themselves known...and felt. With aeration, all aspects (fruit and structure) open up to reveal a wine of great complexity and character. Only 45 cases of the 2008 Malbec were produced. Consume from 2012 – 2020. Price: \$50.