



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2015 VIN GRIS LIVERMORE VALLEY



HARVEST NOTES

Despite the absence of rain at harvest and yet another year of drought conditions during the heart of the growing season, the 2015 vintage will be characterized by an hour's worth of hard rain in May that badly damaged blooming flowers on the vine and devastated yields across the State. Early ripening varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc were spared the greatest losses — the most heavily affected were the red Bordeaux varieties — and overall Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard produced only 69% of average. When yields are down, quality tends to rise, and 2015 was no exception. The quality of all of the Cabernet family of grapes was uniformly excellent, and we achieved desired ripeness at relatively low sugar levels. Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, and Semillon also reached beautiful levels of maturity in the vineyard and have contributed to beautiful wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The first job of all classic dry Rosé wines is to reverberate with fresh fruit, have a structure (and especially an extremely long finish) built on great acidity, and to pair naturally with cheese and charcuterie. It so happens, that in order to reveal the truth about Rosé, one generally also gets very low alcohol levels and just the most beautiful shade of pink. This Vin Gris (a name used to describe nearly-white wines made from red grapes) was made by pressing off Grenache immediately after harvest. The resulting juice, with very pale color, was fermented bone-dry in stainless steel then blended. Picked very early to maintain the requisite acid that great Rosé demands, the final alcohol on the wine registers a wonderfully scant 11.5%.

TASTING NOTES

Even before this wine is smelled or tasted, one is taken by the absolutely beautiful shade of pink the Vin Gris exhibits. The first sniff of the wine's aroma calls to mind freshly picked citrus—grapefruit pith, tangerine...exoticism. In the mouth, the limpid fresh fruit of the nose is amplified by the wine's great acidity and drive. This wine has an ethereal quality to it...flavor floating along a river of acidity to a long and satisfying conclusion.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

98% Grenache, 2% Syrah Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard – Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

August 20, 2015 | pH 3.13 | TA .73 | Alcohol 11.5%

FERMENTATION

The fruit was fermented and aged in stainless tanks. This wine is ML negative (to maintain as much of the racy fruit as possible) and was thus filtered before bottling.

COOPERAGE

Stainless-Steel.

CASES PRODUCED

114 cases

RELEASE DATE

February 12, 2016