

THE
STEVEN KENT
WINERY

“Stairway”

2006 MOURVEDRE, LIVERMORE VALLEY

With the release of *Stairway*, a Mourvedre from the Livermore Valley, the Collector’s Circle takes another step toward its final designation as a Rhône and Italian varietal club. Our intention is to create six wines a year for our members that underscore the joy of drinking intensely flavored wines that emphasize ripe fruit and softer structure. These wines are especially good with food, will benefit by short to medium-term aging, and that are delicious young.

The 2006 Mourvedre, Livermore Valley (75% Mourvedre, 15% Syrah, 10% Grenache) is a delicious and interesting wine for a number of reasons, not the least of which is its significant differences from the first release last year. While similar in blend, the 2006 is a more integrated softer wine (the tannin and acidity of Mourvedre tamed a little by the inclusion of 5% more Grenache); and the leathery notes of 2005 show a bit more plush in the new release. This wine screams for food: from a charcuterie selection for a picnic to a meaty fish dish or chicken with lentils for dinner, the fruit and acidity of *Stairway* will be wonderful companions. Drinking well now, expect improvement over the next 12-36 months.

HISTORY

The Raboli Ranch was originally part of the same estate as our Home Ranch vineyard. Planted to more than a score of varietals in the 1870s it is now home to Zinfandel, Mourvedre, and other Rhône varietals. The Ghielmetti Vineyard – Block 9 was the source of this blend’s Syrah, and the Marina Ranch in Livermore provided the Grenache.

VINTAGE

Harvest Date: September 28 - October 31, 2006

Fruit: 25 - 26.0° at harvest. Alcohol 14.6%

Fermentation: Each varietal was vinified separately then blended. After destemming and crushing, fruit was fermented in ¾ ton open-topped fermenters. The wine was pressed off after about 10 days.

Aging: 7 barrels, 57% new oak (mostly French), 43% second use barrels.

Time in Barrel: 16 months

Release Date: September 13, 2008

ARTWORK

Harold Nelson has had a lifelong passion for art, particularly photo images and collage. It sustained him through years of working in the federal bureaucracy. He started using this collage technique in about 2004 – two years before retirement from his first career and his move to the Pacific Northwest. This piece, *Stairway*, actually has a Livermore connection. It was created from a package of paper sent to him by his sister Judy, who has lived in Livermore for many years.

