

THE
STEVEN KENT
WINERY

2006 Merlot – 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 6 is the home to Merlot, Clone 181. This block, which contains 90 rows and 1,829 vines, is the first of two blocks of Merlot planted on Ghielmetti Vineyard. The second is a larger block grafted over from Syrah in 2006. Block 6 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: 1.68 acres
- Rootstock: 101-14
- Spacing: 7' x 6'
- Vines: 1,088/acre
- Orientation: NE-SW
- Yield: >2 tons/acre

The Barrel - Only three barrels were found to offer the world-class quality characteristics we wanted for this wine. They are:

Barrel Designation 06-184	
Cooper	: Taransaud
Country	: France
Forest	: Center of France
Toast Level	: Medium +
Barrel Heads:	Toasted

The Wine- The Merlot – Ghielmetti Vineyard is part of our Small Lot Offering program. When first tasted the wine is deceptively soft. Round cherry-laden fruit dominates both aromatically and gustatorily. With aeration, however, the wine opens up to reveal more subtle aromas of brandied fruit and smoke. So too, do the fine-grained wood tannins and plush fruit tannins come to the fore with air. Structurally, they serve to frame the abundant ripe fruit notes and provide a substantial counterweight. This wine will pair beautifully with duck, chicken, lamb, and other medium-weight dishes. Only 20 cases of this wine were produced. Consume from 2010 – 2020. Price: \$50.