



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2011 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES HOME RANCH VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2011



HOME
RANCH

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS
LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

The Livermore Valley, like many other Bordeaux-variety producing appellations in California, experienced temperatures well below normal throughout the growing season. While a cold and wet winter did not interfere with the typical timing of budbreak and bloom, significant rainfall in March and June presaged precipitation in October that was 30% above normal. 2011 extended a streak begun in 2009 of temperatures several degrees below average during the height of the growing season (July and August).

WINEMAKER NOTES

The Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard Series is a limited offering of wines that showcase the individual characteristics of a very specific piece of Livermore Valley Cabernet ground. The Home Ranch, located in the middle of the historic Livermore Valley appellation is the oldest vineyard with which we work. Planted in 1996 to the Concannon clone of Cabernet, this vineyard is typified by beautiful silkiness in the mid-palate and an aromatic signature that combines black fruit and unmistakable herbal notes that are a product of the essential oils of Pepper and Eucalyptus trees that line our property. These trees were planted as windbreaks, and as the wind blows through them, their oils are deposited on the skins of our Cabernet. Red winemaking necessitates the use of grape skins to provide color, flavor and texture: what resides on the skins as the fruit is brought into the winery can make its way – as it does here – into the wines. This terroir-driven characteristic is one of the Home Ranch wines' most appealing elements. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine was aged in 100% new French oak barrels for about 24 months.

TASTING NOTES

Given the wet and cool nature of the harvest (as well as the majority of the season) of Cabernet Sauvignon in 2011, the energy and vitality of this wine in the mouth is both appropriate and easily understood. Showing wonderful notes of cassis, graphite, and the subtle Home Ranch perfume of pepper and mint, the 2011 offering shows a beautiful balance of rich fruit and structuring tannin. Replete with lovely viscosity in the mid-palate and an expression of tannin that shows great focus on entry and a broadening through the mid-palate, this wine's lovely sense of balance and length on the finish presage fine long-term aging potential. Stored properly, the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon – Home Ranch should evolve gracefully for the next 10-15 years, and this wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Sauvignon that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Livermore Valley.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon: Home Ranch Estate vineyard which sits in the middle of the 7-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

HARVEST DATA

October 28, 2011 | pH 3.55 | TA 0.60 | Alcohol 14.1%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, BM-45, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14 days followed primary fermentation.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 24 months in 100% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

94 six-packs

RELEASE DATE

August 28, 2014