

THE
STEVEN KENT
WINERY

“Alta Desert Flower”

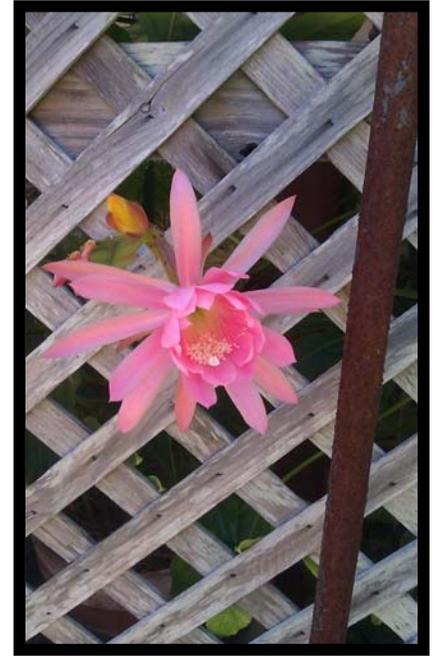
2011 BARBERA, HOME RANCH VINEYARD, LIVERMORE VALLEY

Like the previous vintages of Barbera, Alta Desert Flower—the 2011 Barbera offering made exclusively for members of our Collector’s Circle—comes out of the bottle showing beautifully from the first days. And while one of the things that make wine so “intoxicating” is its ability to grow and change, there is less reason to wish it so with this release. This wine marks our 10th anniversary of Barbera production.

The aromas of fresh blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry, roasted herbs (sage, rosemary), and warm, toasty wood notes leap from the glass when first opened. With only a few minutes of air, though, the aromas of fruit turn darker, and in subsequent days, the wine will gain a darker fruit edge to it, while developing depth and structure.

In the mouth, this vintage of Barbera, while more austere and directed than the 2009 and 2010, shows wonderful fruit intensity and elegant mouthfeel. On entry, the dark aromas are mirrored in rich flavors of blueberry, black cherry liqueur, baking spices and elegant toasted oak. On occasion Barbera resembles wines like Zinfandel...there is so little structure penning in the rampant fruit that the wine tastes like melted jam. In this vintage, however, the abundant structuring acidity provides a focus to the wine that tends to make the fruit even more dramatic. And as usual, Alta Desert Flower shows serious finishing acid (we refer to it as wang) which not only provides shape but length also.

The longer grapes hang the more sugar is produced and the more acid is lost. Being a varietal prone to very high acid, Barbera benefits greatly from the extra hang-time. In 2011, the grapes were picked in late October, just before Cabernet with sugar in the 25° brix, .79 g/l acid range. Having tasted a number of very early Barberas recently, this wine should continue to evolve wonderfully over the next five - ten years.



HISTORY

The Home Ranch is composed of three different blocks, totaling 5.8 acres. The Cabernet and Sangiovese blocks were planted in 1996 and the first vintage of wine from these grapes was made in 2000. The Barbera was planted in 1997; its first vintage was 2001. Originally part of a 90-acre vineyard dating back to the 1870’s, the Home Ranch provides fruit for some of our most sought-after wines.

VINTAGE

Harvest Date:	October 2011
Fruit:	100% Barbera harvested at just over 25°. Alc. 13.8%
Fermentation:	After destemming and crushing, fruit was fermented in 1 ¾ ton, open-top fermentors. Primary fermentation and maceration lasted about 10-14 days.
Aging:	This wine was aged in predominantly new American oak barrels. A smaller percentage of Hungarian and French barrels were used.
Time in Barrel:	18 months
Production:	143 cases
Release Date:	January 11, 2014

VINEYARD

Location:	East of central Livermore Valley, planted on the leavings of the Arroyo Mocho riverbed.
Soil:	Mixed, predominantly riverbed gravel with small amounts of clay on the northern end of the site.
Training:	Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) trellis. Vines are planted in a 6’ x 6’ configuration.

ARTWORK

“Alta Desert Flower” is a photograph taken by our own Cindy Turchino. The title is two-fold in that it means high desert flower, which this is but Alta is also the name of Cindy’s beloved 101 year old grandmother and this picture was taken in her yard.