



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2012 “BIRCH PARADE” SYRAH LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

2012 put to end a string of three vintages of below-average temperatures in the Livermore Valley. The harvest months of September – November saw mild temperatures, and outside of about .4” of rain spread out over the middle two weeks of October, fruit came in under near-perfect conditions. Our last day of harvest was November 8th, two days ahead of the previous year.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Syrah makes up 4.92 total acres divided up into two blocks, each planted to a different clone. Block 14—3.85 acres of the total, planted to clone 383—is again the source of the fruit for Birch Parade, our July 2014 Collector’s Circle release. The 2012 vintage offering is 100% Syrah. Yields on this block, as well as with the other 13 on the Ghilmetti site, have been pruned to provide 3 to 3.5 tons of fruit per acre. These small yields help to insure that the fruit we do harvest is dense, concentrated, and flavorful.

TASTING NOTES

Birch Parade is a wonderful example of the style of Syrah I prefer: exhibiting aromas of dark berry, licorice, white pepper, and toasted herbs, the wine is beautifully fruit-focused, showing great freshness and vitality from entry to finish. I much prefer wines like Syrah, which can be overly fruity and lacking in structure (think, a coloring book in which most of the crayon is outside the lines), to be circumscribed by appropriate levels of tannin. This structure, far from constraining the wine, makes the opulent fruit notes even more so.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghilmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 14 (Syrah) – eastern foothills Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 20, 2012 | pH 3.59 | TA .61 | Alcohol 13.9%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing the fruit was fermented in small open-topped bins. Fermentation and maceration lasted about a week to 10 days. Malolactic fermentation was done in barrel.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 18 months in 67% second use and older American oak barrels, 33% new American oak barrels.

CASES PRODUCED

149 cases

ARTIST

“Birch Parade” is an original water-color painted by Livermore resident Carol Gerich. Carol invites you to enjoy the view of a forest of birch trees near her family cabin in northern Wisconsin. “Birch Parade” suggest that like trees, we stand tall and proud, while sinking our roots deep into the earth. Carol believes that trees provide a natural beauty, especially their statuesque trunks. Her other watercolor paintings have explored the buoyant colors of the rainbow eucalyptus and palms of Hawaii, the golden exuberance of the aspens of Colorado, the sculptural grandeur of the pines of the Sierras, and the enduring strength of our own Livermore oaks.

