



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2012 “DAKOTA” GRENACHE LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Here is what artist Scott Cleek had to say about his work: “Dakota” is an original painting that is part of my “Dawn to Dusk Collection.” The paintings in this collection are fusion of dramatic imagery from nature and radiant points of color. Just as in nature, my goal is for my paintings to appear to be in a constant state of transition and movement. When I decided to add animals to this collection, the wolf was my first choice. I love the legends and mythology associated with the wolf. Many Native American tribes consider the wolf a medicine being associated with courage, strength, and loyalty. They are a beautiful symbol of nature.” You can learn more about Scott and his art at www.sjstudio.com.

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

Grenache has found a home all over the world: Garnacha in Spain where it is an important component of the Ribera del Duero wines, Grenache in both France (one of the most important of the 13 Chateaufeuf de Pape varieties) and Australia where it is often paired with Mourvedre and Syrah to make the wonderful GSM wines. When newly opened the aromas of wild strawberry, citrus peel, and white pepper are wonderfully ebullient. After aeration spice and barrel notes begin to make an impact, but this wine—even more so than our other Grenache releases—is a study in up-front fruit and early drinking.

TASTING NOTES

In the mouth, this release has wonderful vivacity with the flavors of plum and wild strawberry leaping upfront. In the mid-palate, the influence of both varieties can be tasted and felt in the dark, ripe fruit of the Petite Sirah and the acid-tinged redder fruit of Grenache. This wine is rounder in the mouth than past releases and does not show the typical tannin that is often associated with the varietal. With the addition of a hint of sweetness from French oak barrels, Dakota is a lovely, immediately enjoyable example of one of the world’s great grapes.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

80% Grenache, 20% Petite Sirah from Block 7 and Block 12 respectively on Ghilmetti Vineyard.

HARVEST DATA

October 20-30, 2012 | pH 3.59 | TA .61 | Alcohol 13.4%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, fruit was fermented in 1 ¾ ton open-topped fermenters. The wine was pressed off after about 10 days.

COOPERAGE

6 barrels: 100% second-use and neutral French and American oak.

CASES PRODUCED

118 cases

RELEASE DATE

November 8, 2014