

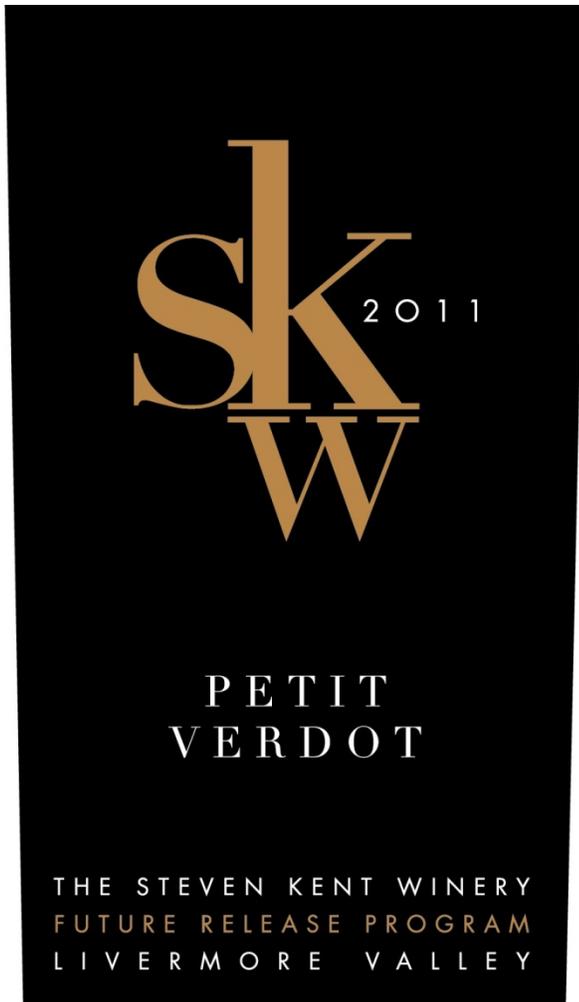


THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

5443 TESLA ROAD, LIVERMORE VALLEY, CA 94550 | (925) 243-6442

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

## FUTURE RELEASE PROGRAM 2011 PETIT VERDOT | 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

This offering marks our fifth varietal Petit Verdot release. Though mostly seen as a blender, made well – the interplay of tannin, sauvage fruit notes, and violet perfume make for a stunning varietal wine. In the Livermore Valley, Petit Verdot has found a very hospitable climate: enough warmth to gain full maturity, and the balancing cool evenings that lead to acid retention and balance. The 2011 Petit Verdot is best served with 12-18 months of bottle age before drinking.

### TASTING NOTES

On entry this wine, especially young, shows significant structure...tightness masking some of fruit that is evident after the wine gets some air. With that air, aromas of semi-sweet chocolate, violet and lavender, sweet smoky oak, black cherry, and plum come to the fore before giving way to an abundance of nicely integrated oak. Chalky tannins and the wine's youthful texture are obvious on the mid-palate; the sauvage quality of the fruit and the abundant tannic structure is mediated and enhanced by the inclusion of 6.5% each Cabernet Franc and Malbec (both from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard) made darker by the inclusion of Cabernet Sauvignon, and – in fact – it is this grape that gives this wine its finishing grip and slightly red fruit flavors on the long finish. Unlike 2010 and 2012 to come, this offering shows the coolness of the 2011 vintage in its abundant acidity and length. Overall, the effect of the entry structure, mid-palate richness, and finishing acidity and length is quite stunning.

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

88% Petit Verdot, 6.5% Cabernet Franc and 6.5% Malbec all from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard which sits on the eastern end of the 7-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

### HARVEST DATA

November 4 – 10, 2011 | pH 3.54 | TA .70 | Alcohol 14.5%

### 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 75% new French and American oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, François Frères, and Radoux.

### CASES PRODUCED

204 cases

### RELEASE DATE

October 11, 2014