



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2011 THE PREMIER — CABERNET SAUVIGNON GHIELMETTI VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2011



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CABERNET SAUVIGNON · THE PREMIER
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 Premier Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 is a blend of three separate lots of wine and is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Many times throughout the elvage of our wines, I will blind taste through more than 100 barrels of Cabernet to choose the finest few (in 2011, it was four barrels) that, together show the greatest and purest expression of Cabernet Sauvignon from our vineyards in that season. Each lot of wine is fermented on its own in 1.7-ton open-top vessels and may go through a period of extended maceration for up to 30 days past dryness. Each lot is inoculated with the strain or strains of yeast that bring out the fruit's purity. This vintage of The Premier was aged for approximately 24 months in new French oak.

TASTING NOTES

Displaying the characteristic balance between flavor, aroma, and structure that is a hallmark of the Steven Kent Winery, this wine is replete with black fruit aromas, focused flavors of cassis, blackberry, and graphite. From a cool year, this Cabernet displays vintage synchronicity in its somewhat austere mid-palate structure, vibrant fruit, and balancing acidity. Tight in its youth, it will blossom organoleptically and structurally over the next several years, and with proper storage should evolve beautifully for 10-15 years. This wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Sauvignon that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard and the Livermore Valley and is more concerned with the wine's harmony and beauty than it is in pure brute power.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

40% Smith Ranch & 20% Home Ranch – western Livermore Valley. 40% Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 5B – eastern foothills Livermore Valley. The Smith Ranch is planted to clone 8 of Cabernet on 101-14 rootstock while Block 5B at Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard is home to the See clone of Cabernet. The Home Ranch is planted to Clone 7.

HARVEST DATA

November 4 – 11, 2011 | pH 3.57 | TA 0.62 | Alcohol 14.3%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with D254 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

206 six-packs

RELEASE DATE

May 1, 2014