



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2013 “VINEYARD CLOUDS” BARBERA LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Our own Cindy Turchino took the photograph for the “Vineyard Clouds” label. Here is what she had to say about her photo: “The Livermore Valley Appellation has beautiful peaks and valleys that allow for incredible views, sunsets and excellent cloud watching. This shot shows the clouds with the Livermore Valley Foothills and the grapevines they encompass. A tribute to the Terroir of our spectacular region!”

HARVEST NOTES

2013 was as ideal a year to farm wine grapes as I have seen in the Livermore Valley in nearly 20 years. Clement weather throughout the year and no precipitation in August and October produced one of the highest yields California has ever seen. More importantly, the quality of fruit was uniform and extraordinarily high. The lack of rainfall (only 4.50 inches compared to 14.66 in 2012) did have its negative consequences, however. Lowering water tables caused an increased concentration of dissolved minerals that raised soil pH levels and led to the early senescence of canopy and the concomitant lowering of fruit ripeness levels in certain blocks.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Part of the grape culture of California for decades (really since Italian immigrants brought cuttings of their own native varieties before Prohibition) Barbera has not, until recently, been grown here to maximize its beautiful fruit and momentum of acidity through the mouth. Instead, it was used to bring acidity to Central Valley red blends that suffered a lack of balance due to excessive heat at harvest time. But, if grown in the right place (the Livermore Valley is as good a place as any in the US), the grape produces one of the great food wines, full of flavor and great acidity.

TASTING NOTES

Vineyard Clouds, the 2013 vintage of Barbera was a product of the best growing year we have experienced in the Livermore Valley. A long season, highlighted by temperate climates throughout summer, led to perfectly ripe fruit and significant volumes of it. Vineyard Clouds is marked by plum and garnet hues, with a brightness befitting its structure. Replete with the aromas of fresh plums, dried cherries and just the right amount of background toasty oak, this version of Barbera is remarkably consistent with previous releases from our estate vineyard. In the mouth, one is immediately struck by the acidity of the wine that is a hallmark of the variety. Grown mostly in the very hot Central Valley, Barbera maintains its acidity even as it gains sugar making it a perfect blending grape for wines in need of freshening. When farmed for high-end wines, the acidity serves to carry fruit forward with alacrity through the palate and gets the drinker prepared for the next bite of food (which this wine goes wonderfully well with).

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Barbera from the first of our estate vineyards: Home Ranch, located in the center of the 7-mile axis of the premier sites in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 1, 2013 | pH 3.46 | TA .68 | Alcohol 14.3%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in 1¾ ton open-topped fermenters using BRL97, L2056, and D254 yeast strains. The wine was pressed off skins after about 10 days.

COOPERAGE

6 barrels: 50% new French, and 50% second-use and neutral for 12 months.

CASES PRODUCED

150 cases

RELEASE DATE

March 7, 2015