



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## 2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES SMITH RANCH VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2013



SMITH  
RANCH

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS  
LIVERMORE VALLEY

### 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 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

We have used fruit from the Smith Ranch since 2002 (that wine being one of best we have produced), and in its finest years it yields a wine of power, wonderful mid-palate finesse, and length on the finish. After harvest, fermentation, and barreling down of the wines, we taste all of our Cabernet lots individually and often (we always vinify vineyard sites, and within the vineyard sites-individual clones of Cabernet-separately) to determine which lots have the possibility of being represented as a vineyard-designate and which work best as part of a larger blend. Our single goal is to produce profound wines of great quality and individuality. Each vineyard designate will only be released if it is appreciably more singular and of higher quality than a larger blend.

### TASTING NOTES

In past vintages (especially cooler ones such as 2010) Smith Ranch has tended to the austere side in its fruit presentation, the 2013 vintage – in keeping with the warmer growing year – is showing significantly more entry and mid-palate heft than any vintage since 2007. Different than that wine, however, is its acid-driven finish, which carries the dark and rich fruit to a very long conclusion. In the nose this wine shows intense aromatic notes of black fruit, fennel pollen, and pencil shavings. In the mouth, it maintains a consistency with the aromatics in its heft, opulence, and roundness. While not dryingly tannic, this wine has the structure to age for 10-15 years.

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

The Cabernet block from which we harvested the fruit for this wine is an 11.1-acre Concannon Clone block of the Smith Ranch (total acreage is 154). Our first harvest from this site was in the 2002 vintage. The site is mostly loam but has cobble in various sections.

### HARVEST DATA

October 2, 2013 | pH 3.61 | TA 0.60 | Alcohol 14.1%

### FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, D-80, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14-18 days.

### COOPERAGE

Aged for 24 months in mostly new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

### CASES PRODUCED

489 six-packs

### RELEASE DATE

November 5, 2016