

THE  
**STEVEN KENT**  
WINERY

## 2008 CABERNET SAUVIGNON — SMITH RANCH, LIVERMORE VALLEY

The Steven Kent Winery is Cabernet. We have used fruit from the Smith Ranch since 2002 (that wine being one of the best we have produced), and in its best years it yields a wine of power, wonderful mid-palate finesse, and length on the finish. This vineyard is planted to Clone 8 of Cabernet and is the only site we use regularly to contain that clone.

- Each harvest season we work with a number of small, immaculately farmed Cabernet vineyards that have displayed the ability to produce fruit of the highest possible quality and distinctiveness. These vineyard sites represent the best that the Livermore Valley has to offer.
- 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.
- The amount of change wines go through during the aging process is substantial. A sure-fire winner early won't make the cut 18 months later.
- The converse happens on occasion also. 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. We believe that our members and guests have come to expect this from the Steven Kent Winery, and we expect it from ourselves as well.
- In past vintages Smith Ranch has tended to the austere side in its fruit presentation, even in 2007—while more opulent than in 2006—the wine still showed its welcome mid-palate tightness (especially when young) and a core of black fruit and lingering tannin on the finish. The 2008 release shows more red raspberry and cherry fruit than its immediate predecessor and is potentially more approachable when younger because of it. However, after a whole day of being opened and tasted from, this wine shows wonderful integrity of tannin and shape. The red fruit on entry is noticeable on the mid-palate and leads to semi-sweet chocolate and sweet oak components on the lengthy finish.
- As with all of our red wines, this Cabernet was bottled without filtration and fining. Only two barrels were deemed of high-enough quality to win the imprimatur: Single Vineyard Series. Thus, only 45 cases were produced. We hope you enjoy.

### **HISTORY**

The Cabernet block from which we harvested the fruit for this wine is an 11.1 acre block of the Smith Ranch (total acreage is 154). Our first harvest from this site was in the 2002 vintage. Each year we purchase about three tons of fruit. The site is mostly loam but has cobble in various sections. The Cabernet is Clone 8.

### **VINTAGE**

**Harvest Date:** October 30, 2008

**Fruit:** 100% Cabernet – clone 8. The fruit came in with brix levels of 24° and a complex, ripe flavor profile. Alcohol 14.8%.

**Fermentation:** After destemming and crushing the fruit was fermented in open-top fermentors. It went through primary fermentation and maceration in bin then malolactic fermentation was induced in barrel.

**Aging:** 100% new barrels, 100% French (2) were hand-chosen for this wine.

**Time in Barrel:** 24 months.

**Release Date:** September 1, 2011

### **VINEYARD**

**Location:** Smith Ranch is located on the southwest corner of Arroyo and Wetmore Roads in the Livermore Valley.

**Soil:** Loam with intrusions of cobble.

**Training:** All blocks use the Vertical Shoot Position (VSP) trellising method.