



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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“NANTUCKET HOLLYHOCKS” 2014 TOURIGA LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

“Nantucket Hollyhocks” is a photograph taken by our club member, Carol Satterthwaite. Here is what she had to say about it: “These Hollyhocks stir up childhood memories of growing up with these stately flowers growing freely along the road and many back yards. This picture was taken on Nantucket Island off the coast of Massachusetts.”

HARVEST NOTES

The 2014 harvest in the Livermore Valley was the third in a string of seasons unparalleled in their near perfection of weather and quality of fruit. These three years were characterized by drought and temperate weather (especially in October when fruit was being harvested). 2014 (like '12 and '13) not only succeeded in respect to quality, but in a wonderfully synergistic fashion, the vintage also produced significantly above-average quantity of fruit as well. There being a karmic price to pay for all things, however, the lack of rainfall over these years did lead to some drought-relation water quality challenges in the vineyard – as lowered 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

The Collector's Circle has always been the vehicle by which we could introduce little known varieties and blends to an enthusiastic and intrepid group of wine lovers. Just as with euro-centric Rhône and Italian varieties, the Portuguese varieties such as Touriga Nacional grow extremely well in the Livermore Valley. With the 2014 Nantucket Hollyhocks we proudly offer our members our first release of this wine made from one of the Port varieties that is now becoming relatively common when made in a non-dessert style. A big and spicy wine, this offering will age well over the next 3-7 years, but as with most the grapes chosen for this wine club, the extravagant fruit is its most compelling virtue and should, thus, be drunk over the next 12-18 months.

TASTING NOTES

Smelling vaguely of a slightly more spicy version of Grenache, this wine explodes from the glass in a fountain of beautiful, dark fruit. Wild strawberry, plum, and cinnamon-laced berry show in very compelling fashion right from the outset. In the mouth, silky, spicy fruit takes the fore, while a touch of dried fruit, somewhat reminiscent of Malbec is identifiable on the finish. This wine shows a great deal of earth and game notes as well as the silkiness of entry becomes a little harder and more tannic on the long finish. A bit untamed now, six-12 months of bottle age will serve to sand a little bit of tannin off the edges making this wine an even better accompaniment to food than it is right now. This wine will pair beautifully with the biggest of steaks as well as with hard cheeses.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

75% Touriga Nacional, 15% Tempranillo, 5% Syrah, & 5% Souzao from various vineyards in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 8, 2014 | pH 3.65 | TA .60 | Alcohol 14.5%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in stainless steel tank and 1¾ ton open-topped fermenters. The wine was pressed off skins after about 10-18 days.

COOPERAGE

100% French oak; 45% new barrel, 55% second-use and older for 15 months.

CASES PRODUCED

122 cases

RELEASE DATE

January 7, 2017