

THE
STEVEN KENT
WINERY

2002 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

In only one other vintage since our first have we produced anything but a 100% Cabernet wine under our Livermore Valley banner; 2002 marks the second release. In certain vintages we have found that the addition of another varietal adds levels of complexity and completeness to the wine it would not otherwise achieve. After tasting through the various lots made from our Cabernet vineyards, we added Petit Verdot from Livermore to our Cabernet to make a wine of great depth and ageability. • For centuries, the Bordelais have used Petit Verdot in the blend to provide their wines with darker color and more tannin. This wine is a perfect demonstration of how well the two varieties work together. While the 2001 vintage Cabernet had a very dark red color, this vintage is profoundly dark purple with a core verging on the black. In the nose, one detects intense aromas of black plum and cassis fruit, underpinned by a layer of non-fruit aromatics: pencil shavings, wetted earth, crème brûlée oakiness, dark chocolate, and subtle lavender perfume. • By itself, Petit Verdot does not have the same complexity of flavor and aroma that Cabernet does. It lends puissance, however, to higher tones of fruit, and a tannic framework upon which that fruit matures and evolves. In the mouth, this wine is replete with layers of raspberry, blackberry, chocolate and creamy oak. Fine-grained tannins appear in the mid-palate and persist on the long finish. • In this vintage, which was cooler than 2001 and produced more fruit-forward wines, each lot was vinified separately. After about 20 months in wood, the separate wine were blended and put back in barrel to “marry” for three months before the wine was bottled. Consistent with our Livermore Valley program, about 90% new French oak and 10% second use barrels were employed. Of this total, about 80% were medium toast barrels and the remainder were medium+ toast. • Fewer than 1,500 cases were produced in this vintage. A small quantity of magnums, 3-liter, and 5-liter bottles were produced. The wine was bottled without filtration or fining.

THE WINE

Varietal Content:	76% Cabernet Sauvignon 24% Petit Verdot	Residual Sugar:	0.04% Dry
Alcohol:	14.7%	Release Date:	July 2005
pH:	3.64	Total Acid:	0.61 g/100ml
		Volume Produced:	1500 cases