



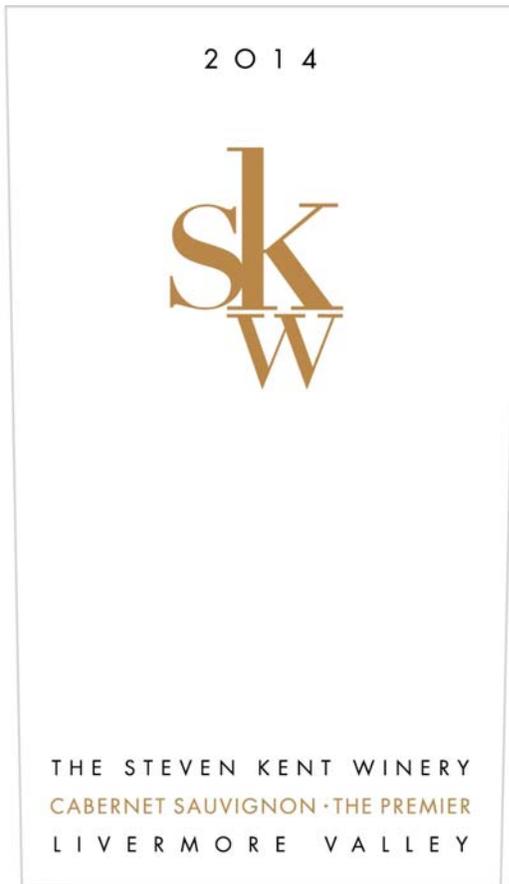
THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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THE PREMIER CABERNET SAUVIGNON — 2014

LIVERMORE VALLEY



VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon: 65% Ghilmetti Estate Vineyard (clone 30); 33% Home Ranch Vineyard (clone 7), and 2% Smith Ranch (clone 8). These three sites comprise the breadth of our appellation from the eastern foothills to the quarry-dotted western edge, creating a 14-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

HARVEST DATA

September 9-20, 2014 | pH 3.60 | TA 0.61 | Alcohol 13.9%

FERMENTATION

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

COOPERAGE

Aged for 22 months in mostly new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

188 six-packs

RELEASE DATE

May 20, 2017

HARVEST NOTES

2014 was one of the earliest harvests the Livermore Valley has on record. We harvested our first fruit 18 days earlier this year than in the previous vintage, and our last day of harvest was two weeks earlier than 2013. The same conditions – even temperatures and an almost complete lack of rainfall – that were found in 2013 were seen in 2014, as well. Challenging water quality persisted as some blocks on our estate vineyards exhibited the tell-tale signs of pH imbalance (in burned leaves and less than ideal ripening). Overall, the quality of fruit we received at the Winery was uniformly high, and our most important blocks – though not quite as fine as the historically great 2013 – was as good as any other vintage in the past 10 years.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The Premier Cabernet Sauvignon represents the finest assemblage of Cabernet in the vintage from the vineyards sites we farm and with which we work. While the wine is always 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the final blend is a careful consideration of quality and balance regardless of site and clone and differs vintage to vintage depending upon the magic and vagaries of the vintage. The Livermore Valley has a long and glorious history; though, far less time highlighting what, in my mind, it grows as well as any region in the world: the Cabernet family of grapes. The Premier — since its inception in 2009 — is our effort to show just how magnificent this grape can be when the vineyards are farmed meticulously and when a certain winemaking philosophy that embodies balance and pace and freshness of fruit is brought to bear. In 2014 we harvested Cabernet from three vineyards and eventually sorted through more than 100 barrels of wine to pick the final 4: each of which was magnificent on its own, and more importantly, even better as part of a blend. Each lot of wine was fermented separately in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters, went through a period of extended maceration that was appropriate for the site and the year, barreled down separately, then blended and rebarreled about a year before release. Interestingly enough, even as we are prizing more and more the nuances of used wood, most of the barrels that were chosen for this offering were new. 100% French oak is used; the wine was aged about 22 months before bottling.

TASTING NOTES

The Premier 2014, like its previous incarnation, is a wine of its year...from the first nosing. Showing predominantly red to dark fruit, with a touch of dried sage and bay, this wine has impressive density of aroma. On entry, the wine is ripe and opulent, with obvious, but appropriate, viscosity and heft. The wine has nice pace, carrying flavors on the back of fine acid and fine-grained tannin. From the standpoint of flavor, the 2014 offering has darker fruit in the mouth than in the nose, significant fruit (both dried and fresh) and an underlying savory herbal note that adds tremendous complexity to the wine. On the finish, the very focused tannic structure broadens, and the wine ends on a note of red-cherry tinged acidity that is quite compelling. A touch leaner than the 2013 vintage from mid-palate to finish, this wine shows the varied vineyards from which it was made with a deftness and structure that will reward medium to long-term aging. This wine should age gracefully for more than 15 years, and we believe it to showcase a vision for Cabernet Sauvignon that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Livermore Valley.