



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## 2016 SEMILLON GHIELMETTI VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

### HARVEST NOTES

The 2016 vintage started life, for the first time in several years, with significant winter rainfall (Livermore saw rainfall in January 2016 exceed that of January 2015 by 243%). Helping to recharge aquifers and wells, rainfall was also helpful in leaching out some of the dissolved solids that had accumulated during the drought. Budbreak and Bloom occurred in temperate weather, and the season continued in a fairly typical Livermore Valley fashion: dry and warm through to harvest. The trend of significantly earlier harvests stopped in 2016 as we picked our first fruit one day later than the previous year. 2016 was a uniformly excellent year for fruit quality and yield. I believe this vintage will rival 2014 in excellence.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

The Steven Kent Winery has been harvesting Semillon from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard off and on since 2012. The wine has always been, until 2015, used exclusively in Lola our white Bordeaux-style blend that honors the earliest great wines from the Livermore Valley. Semillon plays a very important role in the dry white wines of southern Bordeaux and to even-greater extent in the classic dessert wines of Sauternes. In the new world, it is Australia that produces the most prominent dry Semillon wines in terms of quality and quantity. Similar to the 2015 vintage, our 2016 Semillon showed such wonderful intensity of aroma and flavor that we decided to reserve a small quantity, unblended, to release by itself. Fermented in stainless steel this wine—being ML-negative—required filtering before bottling. Only 124 cases were produced in this vintage.

### TASTING NOTES

Semillon, unlike its more famous regional cousin, Sauvignon Blanc, is more a wine of texture than of aroma or flavor. This vintage was harvested at slightly-higher sugar levels than 2015 and the aromas and flavors of white flowers, spiced pear, and honeyed peach are richer than the previous release. Characteristically, this variety shows nice viscosity in the mid-palate, and it is this quality that marries so well with Sauvignon Blanc's searing acidity. 2016 shows lovely entry acidity (a quality that persists all through the wine) with a corresponding viscous weight in the mid-palate that elevates the fruit flavors. Boasting great aging potential in Australia, we are intrigued by this wine's potential to gain more complexity with time. However, if you are like us, you'll lay the second bottle down, and enjoy all the beauty this young Semillon has to offer!

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Semillon, Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard located in the foothills 3.4 miles east of the Winery.

### HARVEST DATA

September 24, 2016 | pH 3.40 | TA .70 | Alcohol 13.4%

### FERMENTATION

The fruit was fermented in stainless tanks. Aged in stainless steel, this wine is ML negative (to maintain as much of the racy fruit as possible) and was thus filtered before bottling.

### COOPERAGE

Stainless Steel.

### CASES PRODUCED

124 cases

### RELEASE DATE

May 20, 2017



SEMILLON

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