



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## 2016 “SUNSET ON MORGAN TERRITORY” RED BLEND 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

Sunset on Morgan Territory is a Rhône-style blend containing Grenache and Petite Sirah from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard. These two grapes make beautiful blending partners, circumscribing the fruit-forward notes of Grenache and the more rustic fruit and tannic structure of Petite Sirah. While generally meant to drink younger, this Collector's Circle offering has the finishing structure to warrant 3-5 years aging.

### TASTING NOTES

A blend of Grenache and Petite Sirah harvested from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, this wine combines the best of Grenache's wild strawberry and plum aromas, round mid-palate, and great acidity, with the firm, dark fruit and tannin of one of Livermore's heritage varieties —Petite Sirah. In the nose, abundant fruit (red and dark fruit notes) mostly from the forward Grenache, combine with a subtle bacon-scented earthiness of Petite Sirah to create a very complex aromatic signature. In the mouth, the lighter fruit flavors of Grenache serve to leaven the significantly tannic Petite Sirah while also contributing to a lengthy finish for the wine. Because of the wine's youth, flavors and structural notes derived from barrel are a little more obvious than they will be with 12-24 months more bottle age. Pairing this wine with a thick cut of meat or a spicy pasta sauce will go a long way to tame its youthful structure.

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

75% Grenache, 25% Petite Sirah harvested from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard.

### HARVEST DATA

September 2015 | pH 3.60 | TA .60 | Alcohol 14.5%

### FERMENTATION

The fruit for both varietals was fermented separately in 1.7-ton open-top fermenters. After cold soaking and primary fermentation, both wines went through extended maceration for 7-14 days before being pressed.

### COOPERAGE

This wine was aged for about 10 months in 50% new French oak.

### CASES PRODUCED

115 cases

### RELEASE DATE

November 4, 2017

**ARTIST** “Sunset on Morgan Territory” captures that special moment when the setting sun washes the hills in coral hues and turns the shadows violet. Artist Carol Gerich was inspired by this uniquely colored scene on her way home to Morgan Territory Road at dusk. Her original watercolor is a departure from the typical paintings of golden Livermore Valley hillsides punctuated by dark green oaks, but the sense of serenity offered by the Valley still pervades the painting. Carol has enjoyed exploring art her whole life, but she has spent more time with her palette since retirement.

