



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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BDX COLLECTION

2014 PETIT VERDOT | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2014



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VERDOT

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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

This offering marks our eighth varietal Petit Verdot release. Though mostly seen as a blender, made well – the interplay of tannin, sauvage fruit notes, and violet perfume make for a stunning varietal wine. In the Livermore Valley, Petit Verdot has found a very hospitable climate: enough warmth to gain full maturity, and the balancing cool evenings that lead to acid retention and balance. The 2014 Petit Verdot is best served with 18-24 months of bottle age before drinking.

TASTING NOTES

Always somewhat reductive and earthy in the fermentor, Petit Verdot - like this offering - carries a level of seriousness and inscrutability in its aromatic profile. In the nose this wine shows the characteristic notes of plummy, rich fruit (albeit, a bit darker in nature than the 2013 vintage), lavender, and graphite. But like Syrah, cataloguing the myriad notes of PV's aromatic signature is much less important than getting an overall sense of the great breadth and density of its fruit. On entry, this wine shows tremendous weight and density of fruit...fruit a touch redder than the nose might hint. The mid-palate, while full, also shows a dramatic acidity that serves to highlight the abundant fruit. The 2014 Petit Verdot finishes with significant and characteristic chalky tannins (the finish is not quite as lengthy in its youth as it will grow to be with some bottle age). Overall, the effect of the entry structure, mid-palate richness, and finishing acidity and length is quite stunning.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Petit Verdot from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard which sits on the eastern end of the 7-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

HARVEST DATA

October 8, 2014 | pH 3.55 | TA .58 | Alcohol 14.2%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, NT112, BDX, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14 days followed primary fermentation.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 20 months in 50% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperers were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

194 cases

RELEASE DATE

December 1, 2017