



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

5443 TESLA ROAD, LIVERMORE VALLEY, CA 94550 | (925) 243-6442

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2015 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES HOME RANCH VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2015



HOME
RANCH

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS
LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

Despite the absence of rain at harvest and yet another year of drought conditions during the heart of the growing season, the 2015 vintage will be characterized by an hour's worth of hard rain in May that badly damaged blooming flowers on the vine and devastated yields across the State. Early ripening varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc were spared the greatest losses — the most heavily affected were the red Bordeaux varieties — and overall Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard produced only 69% of average. When yields are down, quality tends to rise, and 2015 was no exception. The quality of all the Cabernet family of grapes was uniformly excellent, and we achieved desired ripeness at relatively low sugar levels. Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, and Semillon also reached beautiful levels of maturity in the vineyard and have contributed to beautiful wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2.8-acre Home Ranch site was the first of our Cabernet vineyards to be harvested in 2014, due in large part to the depth and expanse of gravelly soil upon which the vineyard was planted in 1996. 2015 was the third time we divided the vineyard into separate sections to make wines that reflect the diverse terroir of the Home Ranch (due to the dramatic diminution of yields of in this vintage, we did not get enough of Block A to make a separate wine. It was fermented and aged with Block B). Block A is closest to the row of pepper and eucalyptus trees planted along the border of the site and most clearly reflects the herbal note that often characterizes our releases. Block B comprises the short rows behind our Reserve Room where the water holding capacity of the soil is only half that of the front portion, Block C, of the vineyard. Block B usually produces smaller, more intense berries, and — consequently — adds structure and tannin to the final blend. The C Block is the largest block on the site, ripening 2-3 weeks earlier than our Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard 3.4 miles east. Each section of the vineyard was vinified separately using the same yeast strains and the same barrel regime. The site, in the case of the Home Ranch — the sub blocks of fruit — are the variables in the wine making equation.

TASTING NOTES

This wine shows an intriguing combination of dark fruit, dusty earth, and savory herb notes. In the mouth, characteristic of the Steven Kent style, the wine enters with wonderful richness and complex flavors including the savory herbs noted in the aroma, fans out broadly in the middle palate and shows great pace and drive of acidity from mid-palate to finish. The finish of the wine is elegant, showing nice length and also a very balanced acid/tannin matrix that is sure to provide the backbone for long-term aging. With proper storage this wine should evolve beautifully over the next 10-15 years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Home Ranch Vineyard. This estate site is located in the center of the 7-mile axis of the premier sites in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

September 11, 2015 | pH 3.61 | TA .63 | Alcohol 14.1%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in 1¾ ton open-topped fermenters using a combination of uninoculated bins as well as D254 and NT112 yeast strains. The wine was pressed off skins after 17 days.

COOPERAGE

100% French oak, 50% new barrels for 22 months.

CASES PRODUCED

145 cases

RELEASE DATE

July 14, 2018