



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2016 "SPARKLE" SYRAH 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

Syrah makes up 4.92 total acres divided up into two blocks, each planted to a different clone. Both blocks were used in 2016 to make our Collector's Circle release—*Sparkle*. 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 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.

TASTING NOTES

Sparkle is a terrific example of the style of Syrah I prefer. I am not fond of wines that are rampant in fruit with no structure to underpin and balance the fruit's enthusiasm; this Syrah shows beautiful and warmer-climate Syrah aromatic notes of red berry and white pepper. In the mouth, the fruit is plush, and there is substantial tannin and acidity on the finish to modulate and highlight that gorgeous medley of fruit flavors. This wine finished with great length, as is our style, and will reward the moderately patient drinker with increased complexity over the next several years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 14 – eastern foothills, Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

September 14, 2016 | pH 3.58 | TA .62 | Alcohol 14.7%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in 1.7 ton open-topped fermenters. Primary fermentation lasted about 7 days, and no extended maceration was employed in order to maintain the fruit-forward quality of the wine.

COOPERAGE

This wine was aged in 100% French oak, about 50% of which was new. It was in barrel for about 18 months.

CASES PRODUCED

140 cases

RELEASE DATE

September 8, 2018

ARTIST

Diane Brodie is an Intuitive Artist. After retiring from work as a psychologist, she began painting with acrylics. She approaches her blank canvas in delightful wonder of what will appear! She has learned to trust her guidance and has remained open to surprises as she listens to the inner voice suggesting she use certain colors, textures and application of tools. Her background in Jungian Psychology and work with symbols bring greater depth to her appreciation of the symbols and images that spontaneously appear on the canvas. Diane shows her art by appointment at her private studio in Jackson, California. Please feel free to call her at (209) 256-1998 or email Brodiede@juno.com. She will be glad to email more samples of her work and provide her upcoming web site address when it is completed.

