



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2014 PETIT VERDOT, SMALL-LOT OFFERING GHIELMETTI VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2014



PETIT
VERDOT

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
SMALL-LOT OFFERING
LIVERMORE VALLEY

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

On rare occasions, we have found that a grouping of a small number of barrels produces a wine of such singular quality and differentiation from a larger group that we release this spectacular wine under our Small-Lot Offering banner. Such was the case with the 2014 Petit Verdot – Small-Lot Offering. This wine, unlike its BDX Club compatriot, was made from the Forman clone of Petit Verdot grown at the top of Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, 960 feet above sea level. 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. Only 2 barrels of this wine were deemed of great-enough quality to be included in the Small-Lot Offering program. This wine is best served with 18-24 months of bottle age before drinking. Enjoy!

TASTING NOTES

Always somewhat reductive and earthy in the fermenter, 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 leaner in nature than the BDX Collection of 2014), lavender, red fruits, 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 beautiful weight and density of fruit. 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. Overall, the effect of the entry structure, mid-palate richness, and finishing acidity and length is quite stunning.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Petit Verdot (Forman clone) from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard which sits on the eastern end of the 14-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 13.9%

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 coopers were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

43 cases

RELEASE DATE

March 30, 2018