



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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BDX COLLECTION

2015 PETIT VERDOT | 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 of 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

Though mostly seen as a blender, Petit Verdot made well – the interplay of tannin, sauvage fruit notes, and violet perfume make for a stunning varietal wine. In the Livermore Valley, this variety 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 2015 Petit Verdot is best served with 6-12 months of bottle age before drinking.

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, lavender, bay leaf, and graphite. On entry, this wine shows wonderful suppleness of fruit with a hint of acidity on the tip of the tongue, roundness and breadth on the mid-palate, and velvety richness of fruit on the finish. Unlike many other of our PV offerings, this wine is relatively tannin-free on the finish. The first chapter of the 2015 PV story is one of gorgeous fruit, seductive texture, and great length. While the flavors and aromas of this wine scream PETIT VERDOT! The texture is much more restrained and elegant.

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 2015 | pH 3.60 | TA .60 | 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 coopers were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

209 cases

RELEASE DATE

December 3, 2018