



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
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2017 "THE WHARF" SYRAH LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

After a trio of very good to great vintages (2012-14) including what was the finest (2013) in more than 20 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley, 2017 moved the bar even higher. The winter saw very significant rainfall with the arroyos at the base of the Ghielmetti Vineyard running with water for the first time since at least 2005 (Livermore recorded 14 inches of rain, an average year total in January through February alone; significantly, though, only .20 inches from July through October — Harvest time). Late August through October exhibited nearly perfect weather: temperate, practically no rainfall so that fruit came in with balanced ripeness and higher than average quantity from Ghielmetti Vineyard (~285 tons compared to the 5-year running average of 238 tons.)

WINEMAKER NOTES

At Ghielmetti Vineyard, Syrah makes up 4.92 total acres divided up into two blocks, each planted to a different clone.

TASTING NOTES

The Wharf 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, much like most of the wines of the vintage, is significantly more structured and tannic than previous releases. The reductive notes of roasted game and smokiness are present in the nose and on the palate, and they are underpinned (along with viscous fruit flavors) by parentheses of tannin from entry to finish. This wine needs several years of bottle age before it will show its many charms, and, with the proper storage, should age beautifully for more than 10 years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Syrah from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 14 – eastern foothills, Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 2, 2017 | pH 3.67 | TA .65 | Alcohol 15.0%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in a temperature-controlled stainless-steel tank. Primary fermentation lasted about 7 days, and the wine was pressed on October 10, 2017.

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

118 cases

RELEASE DATE

July 13, 2019

ARTIST

Here is what house artist, Scott Cleek, had to say about this year's selection: *"The Wharf" is part of a series of paintings I did to celebrate the City of San Francisco and its most famous landmarks. I used a bold palette of bright colors, and thick brush strokes to communicate the vibrant energy of The City by the Bay. As with all of my paintings I create work with the intent of capturing moments that stir emotion, evoke a memory, set a mood, or simply allow us to dream. I'm excited to have "The Wharf" as my 13th wine label for Steven Kent's Collectors Circle Club.*

