



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## “WICKED GARDEN” RED BLEND LIVERMORE VALLEY

### HARVEST NOTES

2015 & 2018 were very different growing seasons (if one delves into the details) but each ultimately produced terrific wines. 2015 started with a rain event during set that contributed to significantly reduced yields and an early sense for this winemaker of wines that were more acid-driven and less dark in fruit than they are showing now, only 4 years later. 2018, much like 2017 before it, was about as ideal a year as one could hope for. Very few days over 100°, harvest dates a little later than 2017, and wines that – in barrel – are showing a beautiful sense of cohesion and heft.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

On occasion, when we find the resulting blends to be of particularly fine quality, we will put together barrels from more than one vintage into a non-vintage offering for our club members. Most of the famous Champagne houses create a “house style” of their wines by continually blending several vintages together to create a flavor profile that is consistently “Moët” or “Bollinger,” for example. Blending of multiple vintages is also done routinely in Port and in Jerez where the great Spanish Sherries are made. Multi-vintage blending has been slow to catch on with still wine producers, and with this Wicked Garden, a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache & Syrah from the 2015 and 2018 vintages, the style of the wine was more important to us than was the expression of the vintage.

### TASTING NOTES

Wicked Garden, featuring original artwork by Susan J. Samol, is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 16.5% each Grenache and Syrah from Ghielmetti Vineyard. The Collector’s Circle has always been filled with wines that were meant for early drinking, substantial up-front fruit, and an ability to pair easily with all different kinds of cuisine. Wicked Garden is a perfect example of our Collector’s Circle “mission.” The combination of Cabernet, with its structure-giving tannin, Syrah with its generous fruited-fleshiness, and Grenache with its festive wild Strawberry and plum notes combine to form a wine that makes one smile with the first sniff. Grenache is dominant in the nose with warm aromas of wild fruits wrapped in bittersweet chocolate. Underlying that delicious matrix is the berryiness of Syrah with a dollop of the reductive note of roasted game. Cabernet makes its mark on the finish of the wine...contributing significant tannin compared to the fruit-forward quality of the entry and mid-palate of the wine. The tannin comes, though, after a wonderful entry of gorgeous fruit. Red fruits generally mean higher acidity to me, and there is no lack of beautiful acidity and length in this wine. Wicked Garden is meant for early drinking though it will evolve nicely over the next 3-5 years.

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

All the fruit for this wine came from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard located in the shadow of the Altamont Pass in the eastern foothills of the Livermore Valley.

### HARVEST DATA

October 2015 & 2018 | pH 3.65 | TA .68 | Alcohol 14.0%

### FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing, the fruit was fermented in 1¾ ton open-topped fermenters. The wine was pressed off skins after about 10 days.

### COOPERAGE

6 barrels: 50% new French, and 50% second-use and neutral for 22 months.

### CASES PRODUCED

125 cases

### RELEASE DATE

November 9, 2019

### ARTIST

“Wicked Garden” is a piece created by Denver artist, Susan Samol. Inspired by the works of Salvador Dali and film director Tim Burton, this piece came to life with alcohol inks and pastels. She views this piece, and the creative process, as a portal to another world filled with color, whimsy and imagination. Art opens the mind to possibility and leaves behind our day-to-day worries. The use of brilliant color, lines and pattern can be found in her pieces as well as whimsical creatures. As an animal lover and proud cat guardian, Susan has been making new art featuring four-legged critters. She also enjoys working with acrylics, oil paints, and colored pencils. Susan invites you to view more art on her Instagram account, “sjsamol”, where you can direct message her.

