



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2018 “REFORMANDAM” BARBERA LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Here's what artist, Elizabeth Morretta, had to say about this year's first Collector's Circle selection: "Reformandam" which translates to "remake" in Latin, was created as a project where I was tasked to recreate a Spanish artist's work. I selected Picasso's "Girl in the Mirror", and painted with bold, yet warm colors with oil paints. As an artist, I enjoy many mediums, especially ceramics and portrait sketching.

HARVEST NOTES

In keeping with the history of winemaking in California where temperate weather is the normative condition, the 2018 vintage extended the streak of nearly perfect growing conditions to another season. After the breathtaking quality of the 2017 vintage (the best in our more than 20 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley), 2018 arrives in great form. Where the prior vintage illustrates how compelling structured power can be, 2018 is a more voluptuous, more immediately inviting year. While these wines show beautifully upon release, they will, as do most of our wines, continue to grow in beauty and balance over the mid-term, and the most age worthy wines will provide great richness and joy for 20 years or more.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Part of the grape culture of California for decades (really since Italian immigrants brought cuttings of their own native varieties before Prohibition) Barbera has not, until recently, been grown here to maximize its beautiful fruit and momentum of acidity through the mouth. Instead, it was used to bring acidity to Central Valley red blends that suffered a lack of balance due to excessive heat at harvest time. But, if grown in the right place (the Livermore Valley is as good a place as any in the US), the grape produces one of the great food wines, full of flavor and great acidity.

TASTING NOTES

The 2018 vintage of Barbera is pulling double duty for The Lineage Collection portfolio. About half of the fruit is being made into a unique sparkling rosé to be called La Dotta under our Mia Nipote brand while the other half was made into our traditional red release under the Steven Kent Winery brand. Consequently, we harvested the fruit from our Home Ranch on two different dates: September 10, 2018 for the rosé and October 18, 2018 for this release. Where the 2017 vintage showcased significant dried fruit notes, this wine favors fresh blueberry serving as a lifted component on top of the characteristic earthiness and dried herb notes this particular fruit regularly shows as base notes. In the mouth, the richness of aroma is replicated in the acid-tinged voluptuousness of fruit in the mouth. Taking on a slightly redder flavor profile than the nose would suggest, this wine is extremely young now, charged with mouth-watering acidity and capable of aging beautifully for a decade or more.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Barbera from the first of our estate vineyards: Home Ranch, located in the center of the 7-mile axis of the premier sites in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 18, 2018 | pH 3.50 | TA .76 | Alcohol 15.0%

FERMENTATION

Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters. Primary fermentation was completed in 9 days after which the wine was pressed off into barrel.

COOPERAGE

10 barrels: 10% new French, and 90% second-use and neutral for 18 months.

CASES PRODUCED

88 cases

RELEASE DATE

January 9, 2020