



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2016 CABERNET FRANC, SMALL-LOT OFFERING LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

The 2016 vintage started life, for the first time in several years, with significant winter rainfall (Livermore saw rainfall in January 2016 exceed that of January 2015 by 243%). Helping to recharge aquifers and wells, rainfall was also helpful in leaching out some of the dissolved solids that had accumulated during the drought. Budbreak and Bloom occurred in temperate weather, and the season continued in a fairly typical Livermore Valley fashion: dry and warm through to harvest. The trend of significantly earlier harvests stopped in 2016 as we picked our first fruit one day later than the previous year. 2016 was a uniformly excellent year for fruit quality and yield. I believe this vintage will rival 2014 in excellence.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2016 Cabernet Franc Small Lot Offering was made from 100% Cabernet Franc harvested from the Ghielmetti Estate and Sachau vineyards. Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters, the wine was aged in 20% new French oak barrels for 18-20 months. Only three barrels from a larger lot were deemed of great-enough quality to be designated Small Lot Offering.

TASTING NOTES

Cabernet Franc is at its most compelling when the variety's characteristic herbal aromatic signature is allowed to express itself unfettered by obvious oak. In the 2016 offering, the lack of new oak aromas and flavors serves to highlight the gorgeous interplay between red and dark fruit notes and the customary herbal aromas that separate this variety from its bigger offspring — Cabernet Sauvignon. In this vintage, for the first time, we harvested Cab Franc from two different vineyards. Each produced a wine of great quality though different in depth of fruit and intensity of acidity. In this release, the wine shows wonderful intensity of fruit, depth of structure, and enough of the herbal characteristics of the variety to remind wine lovers what they are drinking. This wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Franc that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard and the Livermore Valley.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard 67%; Sachau Vineyard 33%.

HARVEST DATA

September 21 – October 23, 2016 | pH 3.60 | TA 0.40 | Alcohol 14.3%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with CSM, GRE, and NT112 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 18 days followed primary fermentation.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 20 months in 20% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

66 cases

RELEASE DATE

February 1, 2020

2016



CABERNET
FRANC

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