



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

5443 TESLA ROAD, LIVERMORE VALLEY, CA 94550 | (925) 243-6442

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES SMITH RANCH VINEYARD | 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

We have used fruit from the Smith Ranch since 2002 (that wine being one of the best we have produced), and in its finest years it yields a wine of power, wonderful mid-palate finesse, and length on the finish. After harvest, fermentation, and barreling down of the wines, we taste all of our Cabernet lots individually and often (we always vinify vineyard sites, and within the vineyard sites-individual clones of Cabernet-separately) to determine which lots have the possibility of being represented as a vineyard-designate and which work best as part of a larger blend. Our single goal is to produce profound wines of great quality and individuality. Each vineyard designate will only be released if it is appreciably more singular and of higher quality than a larger blend.

TASTING NOTES

As one of the last wines of the vintage to be released, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Smith Ranch is just now beginning to settle into itself in a fashion to allow for some consideration. Generally, one of the more tannic, focused wines of the Single Vineyard Series offerings, this particular wine is beginning to show some of the dark-fruited heft that marks this vineyard offering. In the nose, the fruit is dark, black cherry and black plum dominating, and there is just a hint of nicely toasted oak underneath and supporting the abundant fruit. The wine's youth is betrayed in the mouth when, on entry, there remains (and probably will for a number of years) a touch of baby fat and viscosity that takes attention away from the focus of tannin in the mid-palate and on the finish. The flavors of the wine do not diverge much from those aromatic notes as dark fruits once again come to the fore and linger. Structurally, the wine gains heft in the mid-palate and verges toward the very focused line of tannin down the middle of the tongue. There is a touch of smoky flavor to add complexity to the wine...and that is most obvious toward the finish. On the finish, this wine shows immature tannins and nice breadth, qualities that will continue to evolve over the next 10-15 years. With a lengthy finish and nice acid drive the 2016 Smith Ranch Cabernet will reward patience and a great piece of meat.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

The Cabernet block from which we harvested the fruit for this wine is an 11.1-acre Concannon Clone block of the Smith Ranch (total acreage is 154). Our first harvest from this site was in the 2002 vintage. The site is mostly loam but has cobble in various sections.

HARVEST DATA

September 29, 2016 | pH 3.81 | TA 0.60 | Alcohol 14.2%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, D-80, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14-18 days.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 24 months in mostly new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

134 cases

RELEASE DATE

November 9, 2019

2016



SMITH
RANCH

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CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS
LIVERMORE VALLEY