



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES LENCIONI VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2016



LENCIONI
VINEYARD

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS
LIVERMORE VALLEY

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon: Lencioni vineyard which sits on the western end of the 7-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

HARVEST DATA

October 2016 | pH 3.62 | TA 0.61 | Alcohol 14.3%

FERMENTATION

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

COOPERAGE

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

CASES PRODUCED

142 cases

RELEASE DATE

January 12, 2019

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 Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard Series is a limited offering of wines that showcases the individual characteristics of a very specific piece of Livermore Valley Cabernet ground. Each of these sites offers a new way of looking at the, oftentimes overlooked, complexity of the Cabernet Sauvignon variety. For this series of wines, the site (and clonal material planted in that site) is the most obvious variable - the moral of the story we are trying to tell - so winemaking techniques, yeast choices, and maceration schedules are left generally the same for each of the four wines presented. Planted in the early 2000s, The Lencioni Vineyard, located off Vineyard Road in the western end of the Livermore Valley appellation, comprises just over 4 acres and two different clones of Cabernet Sauvignon: 337 and 191, both Bordeaux selections. The clones were harvested at different times based upon our perception of readiness after tasting through the block. The grapes were crushed, destemmed, and fermented in 1.7-ton, open-top fermenters. After primary fermentation, the skins continued to macerate in the wine for approximately 14 days to help shape it; the wine was then pressed when we felt it had displayed an appropriate level of texture. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine was aged in mostly new French oak barrels for about 24 months. Only 6 barrels were deemed of high-enough quality to include in this collection of wines.

TASTING NOTES

The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon – Lencioni Vineyard is our fourth offering from this site. While we have experience with these clones from other vineyards, the specific soil composition and lay of the land...the terroir of the site will trump the characteristics inherent in the clones. This wine is organoleptically characterized by a blend of red and dark fruits (red cherry, blackberry, cassis) as well as a vaguely garrigue-like tone. On entry, the fruit veers very quickly to the dark/black end of the spectrum; in fact, on the finish the wine shows some recalcitrance of fruit and highlights the dried herb quality of the nose while adding subtle black olive flavors too. While 60-70% new oak was used in this blend, wood serves very much a structural role...very little new oak aroma but significant new oak tannin. Starting in the rich but circumscribed mid-palate (think parentheses of structure); the structure of the wine is quite compelling. Never of-putting or out of balance, the sense of weight and ageability is very obvious from mid to finish. On the finish, the wine stretches the recent Steven Kent envelope of astringency (in a very satisfying way, especially if one is considering a beautiful piece of meat) but without blocking the beautiful sense of acid-derived pace, freshness, and length. This offering should age gracefully for 10 more years, and we believe this wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Sauvignon that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Livermore Valley.