

SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2017 LENCIONI VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY



HARVEST NOTES

After a trio of very good to great vintages (2012-14) including what was the finest (2013) in more than 20 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley, 2017 moved the bar even higher. The winter saw very significant rainfall with the arroyos at the base of the Ghielmetti Vineyard running with water for the first time since at least 2005 (Livermore recorded 14 inches of rain, an average year total in January through February alone; significantly, though, only .20 inches from July through October — Harvest time). Late August through October exhibited nearly perfect weather: temperate, practically no rainfall so that fruit came in with balanced ripeness and higher than average quantity from Ghielmetti Vineyard (~285 tons compared to the 5-year running average of 238 tons).

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 five barrels were deemed of high-enough quality to include in this collection of wines.

TASTING NOTES

The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon – Lencioni Vineyard is the last of six releases in this series of wine from the 2017 vintage. Even at the outset of production of these wines, the 2017 vintage showed itself to be the finest in 25 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley. Every variety that came across the crush pad, showcased a balanced ripeness that transcended the normal high-quality we get from the fruit we use. 2017 marks the fifth release from the Lencioni Vineyard; the quality of this fruit is increasing year after year as we farm better, learn more about the site, and make more appropriate choices in the cellar. Showing wonderful balance and elegance of fruit on entry, this wine blossoms in the mouth to show dark fruit organoleptics and fabulous acidity and tannin. From mid-palate to finish, 2017 Lencioni focuses structurally to conclude with somewhat shy, immature tannin that presages wonderful aging capability and even more deliciousness with 5-10 years of storage. This wine should age beautifully for 20 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.

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 30, 2017 | pH 3.62 | TA 0.61 | Alcohol 15.0%

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

109 cases

RELEASE DATE

November 5, 2020