



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2015 CABERNET FRANC, SMALL-LOT OFFERING LIVERMORE VALLEY

2015



CABERNET
FRANC

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
SMALL-LOT OFFERING
LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

Despite the absence of rain at harvest and yet another year of drought conditions during the heart of the growing season, the 2015 vintage will be characterized by an hour's worth of hard rain in May that badly damaged blooming flowers on the vine and devastated yields across the State. Early ripening varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc were spared the greatest losses — the most heavily affected were the red Bordeaux varieties — and overall Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard produced only 69% of average. When yields are down, quality tends to rise, and 2015 was no exception. The quality of all of the Cabernet family of grapes was uniformly excellent, and we achieved desired ripeness at relatively low sugar levels. Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, and Semillon also reached beautiful levels of maturity in the vineyard and have contributed to beautiful wines.

WINEMAKER NOTES

The 2015 Cabernet Franc Small-Lot Offering was made from 100% Cabernet Franc harvested from fruit from Block 4 at the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard in the eastern foothills of the Livermore Valley (66%) and for the first time, from the Sachau Vineyard in the center of the Livermore Valley appellation (34%). Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters, the wine was aged in 30% new French oak barrels for 18-20 months. From two larger lots, only the finest 9 barrels were deemed of great-enough quality to be designated Small-Lot.

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 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 emphasis is on achingly beautiful acidity and the way that characteristic clarifies the mind and palate about the value and limits of Cab Franc done with care.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 4 – eastern foothills Livermore Valley (66%) and the Sachau Vineyard in the center of the appellation (34%).

HARVEST DATA

September 10-18 2015 | pH 3.55 | TA 0.65 | Alcohol 13.6%

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 30% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

219 cases

RELEASE DATE

April 1, 2018