

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE
2018 RED BLEND "A BEAUTIFUL VINTAGE" | LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Here's what artist, Scott Cleek, had to say about his artwork: "An original painting and a wonderful wine can both leave a person totally enamored. I think this parallelism creates a wonderful connection between artists, winemakers, and collectors. It's an honor to have a "Beautiful Vintage" as my 14th label for Steven Kent's Collectors Circle. Cheers!"

HARVEST NOTES

In keeping with the history of winemaking in California where temperate weather is the normative condition, the 2018 vintage extended the streak of nearly perfect growing conditions to another season. After the breathtaking quality of the 2017 vintage (the best in our more than 20 years of winemaking in the Livermore Valley), 2018 arrives in great form. Where the prior vintage illustrates how compelling structured power can be, 2018 is a more voluptuous, more immediately inviting year. While these wines show beautifully upon release, they will, as do most of our wines, continue to grow in beauty and balance over the mid-term, and the most age worthy wines will provide great richness and joy for 20 years or more.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Though nearly every wine we make is a blend of some sort (100% Cabernet offering in our Single Vineyard Series do not include all the barrels available to us...some do not contribute the necessary qualities to make the final blend as good as it could be), the wines that are blends of different varieties offer the winemaker great pleasure and a great challenge. After tasting through components of a blend, we look ahead to what the final wine could look like then add bits and pieces of those components until we have a wine that mirrors the picture in our head with which we started. Not unlike the cook who is adding a little bit of a number of different spices, we look to individual varieties to create a finished blend that is greater than the sum of its parts. We hope you enjoy!

TASTING NOTES

A Beautiful Vintage is a quintessentially structured and fruited wine for the Collector's Circle portfolio. Traditionally, we have concentrated on making wines for this club with plenty of upfront fruit, little obvious oak, and near-term drinking windows. This blend checks off all those boxes. From a nose of rich red and dark berry notes, accented by subtle citrus peel, and semi-sweet chocolate, to an entry and mid-palate that is round and inviting, and a finish with enough tannin to allow for 5-7 years of aging. A Beautiful Vintage is a blend of Syrah, Grenache, Tempranillo, and Cabernet. All of these varieties add to the flavor and structure of the final blend. Grenache and Syrah adding the fruit notes; Tempranillo and Cabernet contributing the structure.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Syrah, Grenache, Tempranillo, and Cabernet Sauvignon harvested from the finest sites in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

September – October 2018 | pH 3.70 | TA .60 | Alcohol 14.2%

FERMENTATION

Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters. Primary fermentation was completed in 9 days after which the wine was pressed off into barrel.

COOPERAGE

10 barrels: 10% new French, and 90% second-use and neutral for 18 months.

CASES PRODUCED

165 cases

RELEASE DATE

July 9, 2020