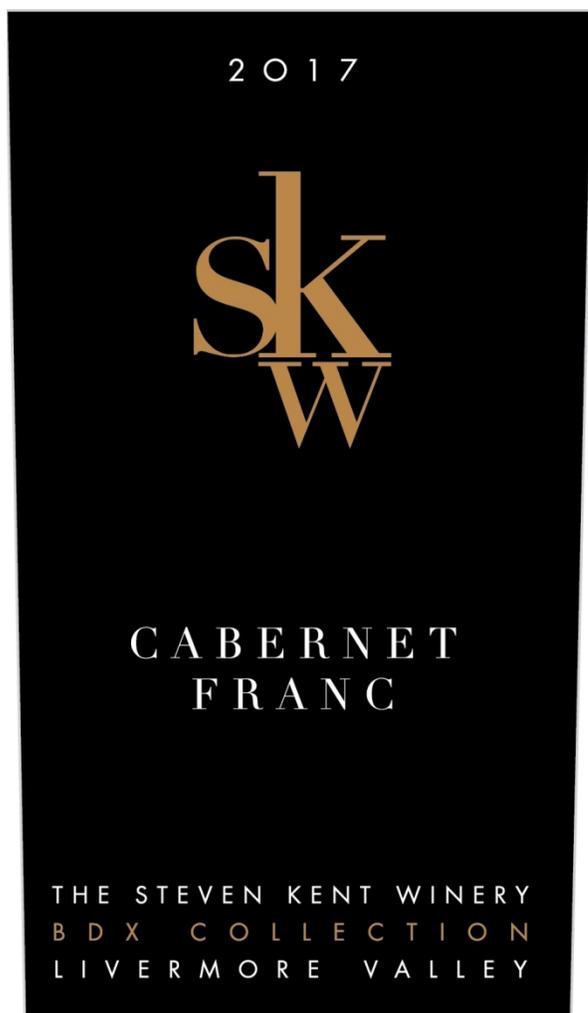


BDX COLLECTION
2017 CABERNET FRANC | LIVERMORE VALLEY



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 2017 Cabernet Franc BDX Collection was made from 100% Cabernet Franc harvested from Block 4 at the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard in the eastern foothills of the Livermore Valley. Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters, the wine was aged in 20% new French oak barrels for 18-20 months. Only eight barrels from a larger lot were deemed of great-enough quality to be designated BDX Collection.

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 offering, the lack of new oak aromas and flavors serves to highlight the gorgeous interplay between red and dark fruit notes and the customary herbal aromas that separate this variety from its bigger offspring — Cabernet Sauvignon. In this vintage, which is the finest in the 24 years we've been making wine in Livermore, the robustness of structure that is a hallmark of 2017 is readily apparent. But even though this wine shows great mid-palate heft and finishing tannin, the mouthfeel does not detract at all from the gorgeous aromas and flavors that shout Cabernet Franc! With proper storage this wine should evolve beautifully over the next 10-15 years. The 2017 offering showcases a vision for Cabernet Franc that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard and the Livermore Valley.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 4 – eastern foothills Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 12, 2017 | pH 3.55 | TA 0.65 | Alcohol 14.6%

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 20% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

176 cases

RELEASE DATE

August 12, 2020