



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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2017 "SUNFLOWER — A HAPPY FLOWER" PETITE SIRAH LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Michael Ayitey, called by his last name, is 12 years old and in Grade 4. His favorite subject is Citizenship Education. He joined Happy Kids 3 years ago as a day student but moved into the boarding house after his parents divorced. Ayitey loves to sing, drum, dance, and play UNO with his friends. Ayitey is on the Happy Kids dance troupe as a drummer and a dancer and is the only kid who is brave enough to try acrobatics. He would like to be a dancer in future.



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 Collector's Circle features wines made from cultivars that are largely of Italian and Rhone origin. These wines are meant to be wines of distinction that are made to pair with food and be ready to drink younger than our Bordeaux-variety based wines. Started in 2003, the Collector's Circle has built a passionate audience for these small-lot wines usually made from fruit grown on our two estate vineyards Home Ranch and Ghielmetti. *Sunflower — A Happy Flower* is a 100% offering of Petite Sirah from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard. The label for this offering was created by a young man in Ghana named Michael Ayitey. The Happy Kids Foundation is a charity to which we gladly donate time and money; the foundation helps to educate orphans in Ghana so that they can live independent, fruitful lives. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this wine will be donated to Happy Kids.

TASTING NOTES

Similar to 2016, the 2017 vintage provided perfectly ripe fruit from which to make this Petite Sirah. Brimming with juicy dark fruit, racy acidity, and great tannin on the finish this wine should please those who love one of Livermore Valley's classic varieties. *Sunflower — A Happy Flower* is saturated with great color, enticing the eye before it beguiles your other senses. A delicious mouthful now, this wine will age beautifully for 5-10 years; rich, slow-cooked dishes will serve this wine beautifully.

VINEYARD SOURCE(s)

100% Petite Sirah from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, block 12.

HARVEST DATA

September 15, 2017 | pH 3.50 | TA 0.73 | Alcohol 14.4%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, this wine was fermented in 1.7-ton open-topped fermenters and was pressed on September 28, 2017.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 18 months in 100% French oak barrels, three of five were new.

CASES PRODUCED

113 cases

RELEASE DATE

September 14, 2019