



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES SMITH RANCH VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2014



SMITH
RANCH

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS
LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

2014 was one of the earliest harvests the Livermore Valley has on record. We harvested our first fruit 18 days earlier this year than in the previous vintage, and our last day of harvest was two weeks earlier than 2013. The same conditions – even temperatures and an almost complete lack of rainfall – that were found in 2013 were seen in 2014, as well. Challenging water quality persisted as some blocks on our estate vineyards exhibited the tell-tale signs of pH imbalance (in burned leaves and less than ideal ripening). Overall, the quality of fruit we received at the Winery was uniformly high, and our most important blocks – though not quite as fine as the historically great 2013 – was as good as any other vintage in the past 10 years.

WINEMAKER NOTES

We have used fruit from the Smith Ranch since 2002 (that wine being one of best we have produced), and in its finest years it yields a wine of power, wonderful mid-palate finesse, and length on the finish. After harvest, fermentation, and barreling down of the wines, we taste all of our Cabernet lots individually and often (we always vinify vineyard sites, and within the vineyard sites-individual clones of Cabernet-separately) to determine which lots have the possibility of being represented as a vineyard-designate and which work best as part of a larger blend. Our single goal is to produce profound wines of great quality and individuality. Each vineyard designate will only be released if it is appreciably more singular and of higher quality than a larger blend.

TASTING NOTES

In past vintages (especially cooler ones such as 2010) Smith Ranch has tended to the austere side in its fruit presentation, the 2014 vintage – in keeping with the warmer growing year, and as a bookend to the 2013 vintage, this new release – is showing beautiful concentration on entry; a richness of flavor in the mid-palate, and great length in the acid-driven finish. In the nose this wine shows intense aromatic notes of black fruit, bittersweet chocolate, and licorice. While not dryingly tannic, this wine has the structure to age for 10-15 years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

The Cabernet block from which we harvested the fruit for this wine is an 11.1-acre Concannon Clone block of the Smith Ranch (total acreage is 154). Our first harvest from this site was in the 2002 vintage. The site is mostly loam but has cobble in various sections.

HARVEST DATA

October 5, 2014 | pH 3.61 | TA 0.60 | Alcohol 14.1%

FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with the D254, D-80, and D-21 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 14-18 days.

COOPERAGE

Aged for 24 months in mostly new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

CASES PRODUCED

143 cases

RELEASE DATE

November 4, 2017