



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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

WWW.STEVENKENT.COM

## 2015 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES SMITH RANCH VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2015



SMITH  
RANCH

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON • SVS  
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 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

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

The 2015 vintage has benefited greatly from the passage of time. Wines that once seemed green or light have begun to flesh themselves out, to gain a sense of seriousness that not only is appropriate for the world-class quality of the sites from which they are made but also to the history of the wines themselves. The Smith Ranch Cabernet is one of those wines. In the nose, the fruit is very dark and rich...plum and cassis notes mingling beautifully with subtle sharpened pencil and bitter chocolate aromas. On entry, the wine is nicely shaped by tannin, showing in the mid-palate, a voluptuousness that serves as a beautiful counterbalance to Smith Ranch's typically focused tannin structure. In keeping with our preferred style, the finish of the wine displays balancing acidity and great length. 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

September 14, 2015 | pH 3.57 | 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

119 cases

### RELEASE DATE

September 8, 2018