

# Lineage

## LINEAGE | VINTAGE 2017 | VINTAGE NOTES

LINEAGE WINE COMPANY'S SINGULAR OFFERING ASPIRES TO BE ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT CABERNET SAUVIGNON-BASED WINES IN THE WORLD. LINEAGE | LIVERMORE VALLEY IS A PRODUCT OF METICULOUSLY FARMED FRUIT FROM THE LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINEST VINEYARDS AND THE VISION OF SIXTH-GENERATION WINEMAKER, STEVEN MIRASSOU.

EACH VINTAGE OF *LINEAGE* BEGINS WITH THE EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL LOTS OF WINE AFTER MALO-LACTIC CONVERSION IS FINISHED IN EARLY SPRING THE YEAR AFTER HARVESTING. THIS PROCESS WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS AS EACH BARREL IN EACH LOT IS TASTED BLIND SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE IT IS DEEMED OF GREAT-ENOUGH QUALITY TO BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE *LINEAGE* BLEND. SCORES OF MOCK BLENDS LATER, THE FINAL ASSEMBLAGE IS MADE, RE-BARRELED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS BEFORE BOTTLING. 2017 MARKS OUR ELEVENTH, AND FINEST, RELEASE OF *LINEAGE* THUS FAR. THE WINE COMPRISES FEWER THAN 400 CASES AND MORE THAN 80% OF OUR BORDEAUX-VARIETAL PRODUCTION WAS DECLASSIFIED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 2011 AND 2015 VINTAGES, THIS DECADE HAS PRODUCED A STRING OF HARVEST-YEAR CONDITIONS THAT ARE CHARACTERIZED BY CONSISTENCY AND TEMPERANCE. TYPICALLY, OUR APPELLATION, FROM JULY – AUGUST, HOVERS AROUND 88° ON AVERAGE. THIS TEMPERATURE IS IDEAL FOR THE UNIFORM RIPENING OF FRUIT GOING THROUGH VERAISON DURING THIS WINDOW. HEAT SPIKES AROUND LABOR DAY ARE GENERALLY BRIEF, THOUGH THIS YEAR TEMPERATURES OF GREATER THAN 105° LASTED FOR FIVE STRAIGHT DAYS AND PRESENTED A GREAT CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO DID NOT WATER INTO THE HEAT EVENT PROPERLY.

ALL OF THE FRUIT COMING IN FROM THE SIX DIFFERENT VINEYARDS WE USE WAS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY WE HAVE SEEN IN 24 YEARS OF WINEMAKING IN LIVERMORE. THE LEVEL OF FRUIT QUALITY WAS SO ELEVATED THAT FIVE DIFFERENT SITES CONTRIBUTED CABERNET SAUVIGNON TO THE FINAL BLEND. SACHAU VINEYARD AND THE CLONE 30 BLOCK FROM GHIEMMETTI ANCHORED THE BASE; HOME RANCH, LENCIONI VINEYARD, AND SMITH RANCH CONTRIBUTED INTENSITY, FLAVOR, AND STRUCTURE. WHILE CABERNET FRANC HAS BEEN ASCENDANT IN TERMS OF ITS PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL BLEND, 2017 SAW MERLOT TAKING ITS PLACE AS THE SECOND LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR AT 20%. THIS VARIETY WAS REMARKABLY STRUCTURED AND FLAVORFUL, SURPASSING THE 2009 AS THE BEST MERLOT WE HAVE WORKED WITH. GENERALLY, WE LOOK TO CABERNET SAUVIGNON TO CONTRIBUTE STRUCTURE, CABERNET FRANC - ACID-DRIVEN RED FRUIT, AND MERLOT – MID-PALATE FLESH. IN THIS GRAND WINE, THESE VARIETIES PLAY THEIR ACCUSTOMED ROLES BUT AT AN AMPLITUDE UNSEEN IN 11 VINTAGES. THIS WINE IS GORGEOUSLY MASSIVE AND WILL REQUIRE 5-10 YEARS TO BEGIN TO SHOW ITS MYRIAD COMPLEXITIES. WITH PROPER STORAGE, 2017 *LINEAGE* WILL AGE FOR 30 YEARS. DRINK FROM 2026-2047.

**HARVEST DATES:** OCTOBER 2 – OCTOBER 27, 2017

**CÉPAGE:** 75% CABERNET SAUVIGNON; 20% MERLOT; 5% CABERNET FRANC. ALCOHOL 14.9%

**FERMENTATION:** TWO BLOCKS OF CABERNET SAUVIGNON WERE FERMENTED IN STAINLESS-STEEL TANK WHILE THE REST WAS FERMENTED SEPARATELY IN 1.7-TON OPEN-TOPPED FERMENTERS. MALO-LACTIC CONVERSION WAS INDUCED IN BARREL.

**AGING:** 100% OF THE BARRELS INCLUDED IN THIS BLEND WERE FRENCH OAK, 60% NEW (LE GRAND, TARANSAUD, AND FRANÇOIS FRÈRES.) TOTAL AGING TIME WAS 22 MONTHS.

**TIME IN BARREL:** 22 MONTHS | **BOTTLING DATE:** MARCH 6, 2020 | **RELEASE DATE:** OCTOBER 3, 2020

**BOTTLES PRODUCED:** 3,964 BOTTLES, 60 MAGNUMS, 5 DOUBLE-MAGNUMS, AND 5 FIVE-LITERS

LIVERMORE VALLEY • RED WINE

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