



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## 2016 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES SACHAU VINEYARD | LIVERMORE VALLEY

### HARVEST NOTES

The 2016 vintage started life, for the first time in several years, with significant winter rainfall (Livermore saw rainfall in January 2016 exceed that of January 2015 by 243%). Helping to recharge aquifers and wells, rainfall was also helpful in leaching out some of the dissolved solids that had accumulated during the drought. Budbreak and Bloom occurred in temperate weather, and the season continued in a fairly typical Livermore Valley fashion: dry and warm through to harvest. The trend of significantly earlier harvests stopped in 2016 as we picked our first fruit one day later than the previous year. 2016 was a uniformly excellent year for fruit quality and yield. I believe this vintage will rival 2014 in excellence.

### WINEMAKER NOTES

The Cabernet Sauvignon Single Vineyard Series is a limited offering of wines that showcases the individual characteristics of a very specific piece of Livermore Valley Cabernet ground. Each of these sites offers a new way of looking at the, oftentimes underestimated, complexity of the Cabernet Sauvignon variety. For this series of wines, the site (and clonal material planted in that site) is the most obvious variable - the moral of the story we are trying to tell - so winemaking techniques, yeast choices, and maceration schedules are left generally the same for each of the six wines presented. Planted in the early 2000s, The Sachau Vineyard, located just west of Mines Road and south of Tesla Road in the center of the Livermore Valley appellation at an elevation of more than 700 feet above sea level, comprises over 200 acres of four of the five Bordeaux varieties. The fruit from Block 100 is a mixed-clone, east-facing block that rolls down a fairly vertiginous hillside. The grapes were crushed, destemmed, and fermented in 1.7-ton, open-top fermenters. After primary fermentation, the skins continued to macerate in the wine for approximately 14 days to help shape it; the wine was then pressed when we felt it had displayed an appropriate level of texture. 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine was aged in mostly new French oak barrels for about 24 months. Only 6 barrels were deemed of high-enough quality to include in this collection of wines.

### TASTING NOTES

The 2016 release of Cabernet Sauvignon - Sachau Vineyard is another example of how pre-eminent the effect of harvest-year climate is on the overall organoleptic qualities of our wines. As we have noted many times, the Single Vineyard Series of Cabernet is as interesting and delicious as it is because we chose specific and high-quality sites first then we stood out of the winemaking way (for the most part) to allow as much of that site and its clone(s) to show through. While all of this remains true, the temperate 2016 growing season provides the parentheses within which sit great entry acidity, tannin building from mid-palate to finish, and a protracted finish that ties the exotic flavors of this site together into a cohesive whole. This wine is replete with the aromas of dark to black fruit, what could be the very subtle whiff of olive wood on a fire, and mocha. In the mouth black-fruit flavors dominate and entry viscosity leads to a narrowing of structure through the mouth - a flume ride of acidity carrying an evolving collection of flavors (fruits become black olives become bittersweet chocolate become, finally, dusty black plum). The presence of significant tannin on the finish is hinted at in the mid-palate, and - like the evolving panoply of flavors - moves from less complexity to more. This offering should age gracefully for more than 10-15 years, and we believe this wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Sauvignon that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Livermore Valley.

### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Cabernet Sauvignon: Sachau Vineyard which sits in the center of the 14-mile axis of world-class quality cutting through the heart of Livermore Valley wine country.

2016



SACHAU  
VINEYARD

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### HARVEST DATA

September, 26 2016 | pH 3.63 | TA 0.66 | Alcohol 14.2%

### FERMENTATION

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

### COOPERAGE

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

### CASES PRODUCED

142 cases

### RELEASE DATE

September 14, 2019