

# Lineage

## LINEAGE | VINTAGE 2013 | WINE MAKER'S VINTAGE NOTES

STEVEN KENT WINERY'S *LINEAGE* ASPIRES TO BE ONE OF THE TRULY GREAT CABERNET SAUVIGNON-BASED WINES IN THE WORLD. THIS SINGULAR WINE IS THE MARRIAGE OF THE *GRAND CRU* QUALITY OF THE LIVERMORE VALLEY'S FINEST VINEYARDS AND THE VISION OF SIXTH-GENERATION WINEMAKER, STEVEN MIRASSOU. A BLEND OF THE CLASSIC BORDEAUX VARIETIES, *LINEAGE* IS A WINE OF GREAT BEAUTY AND ELEGANCE.

EACH VINTAGE OF *LINEAGE* BEGINS WITH THE EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL LOTS OF WINE AFTER MALO-LACTIC CONVERSION IS FINISHED IN LATE WINTER 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 AS PART OF THE *LINEAGE* BLEND. SCORES OF MOCK BLENDS LATER, THE FINAL ASSEMBLAGE IS MADE, REBARRELED FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS SO THAT THE WINE'S COMPONENTS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MARRY INTO AN ELEGANT WHOLE, THEN BOTTLED. IN 2013, *LINEAGE* COMPRISES ONLY 275 CASES AND MORE THAN 95% OF OUR BORDEAUX-VARIETAL PRODUCTION WAS DECLASSIFIED.

2013 WAS THE FINEST VINTAGE IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY IN AT LEAST 20 YEARS. CHARACTERIZED BY NEARLY PERFECT GROWING WEATHER FROM BUD BREAK TO HARVEST, 2013 PRODUCED SIGNIFICANTLY MORE FRUIT THAN AVERAGE AND UNSURPASSED QUALITY. 2013 SIGNALS THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF CABERNET FRANC IN NOT ONLY THE PERCENTAGE OF THE FINAL ASSEMBLAGE, BUT ALSO IN THE WAY ITS VARIETAL CHARACTERISTICS EMBODY OUR WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY. PRIZING BEAUTY (BALANCE, PERSISTENCE OF AROMA & FLAVOR, LITHESS OF STRUCTURE AND COMPLEXITY) OVER SHEER POWER, CABERNET FRANC - AT LEAST AS IT PRODUCES AT THE GHIEMMETTI ESTATE VINEYARD - CONTRIBUTES RED FRUIT AND COMPLEXING HERBAL NOTES, ABUNDANT ACIDITY, AND A PANOPLY OF BEGUILING FLAVORS THAT *LINEAGE* DEFTLY AND WINNINGLY THROUGH THE PALATE. CABERNET SAUVIGNON IS THE WINE'S BASE; MERLOT - ITS OPULENT FLESHINESS; PETIT VERDOT AND MALBEC - THEIR AROMATICS AND TANNIN. AS ALWAYS, CABERNET FRANC IS *LINEAGE'S* HEART. THE 2013 STEVEN KENT WINERY *LINEAGE* NEEDS SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE IT BEGINS TO SHOW ALL OF ITS INTRICACY AND DELICIOUSNESS. WITH PROPER STORAGE, IT WILL EASILY AGE 15 - 20 YEARS. DRINK FROM 2020 - 2035.

**HARVEST DATES:** OCTOBER 12 – NOVEMBER 8, 2013

**CÉPAGE:** 50% CABERNET SAUVIGNON (CLONES 30 & 7); 30% CABERNET FRANC; 15% MERLOT; 3% PETIT VERDOT; 2% MALBEC - HARVESTED FROM THE GHIEMMETTI ESTATE & HOME RANCH VINEYARDS IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY.  
**ALCOHOL** 14.4%

**FERMENTATION:** AFTER DESTEMMING AND CRUSHING, EACH VARIETAL WAS FERMENTED SEPARATELY IN 1.7 TON OPEN-TOPPED FERMENTERS. FERMENTATION AND EXTENDED MACERATION LASTED FROM TWO TO FOUR WEEKS. MALO-LACTIC CONVERSION WAS INDUCED IN BARREL.

**AGING:** 10 OF 13 BARRELS INCLUDED IN THIS BLEND WERE NEW FRENCH OAK (TARANSAUD, LE GRAND, AND FRANÇOIS FRERÈS.) TOTAL AGING TIME WAS 24 MONTHS.

**TIME IN BARREL:** 24 MONTHS | **BOTTLING DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2015 | **RELEASE DATE:** OCTOBER 7, 2016

**BOTTLES PRODUCED • VINTAGE 2013:** 3,330 BOTTLES, 60 MAGNUMS, 5 DOUBLE-MAGNUMS, AND 5 FIVE-LITERS

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