

Lineage

LINEAGE | VINTAGE 2014 | 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 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 2014, *LINEAGE* COMPRISES ONLY 200 CASES AND MORE THAN 95% OF OUR BORDEAUX-VARIETAL PRODUCTION WAS DECLASSIFIED.

2014 WAS THE THIRD IN A STRING OF VINTAGES OF SURPASSINGLY EXCELLENT QUALITY IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY. LIKE 2013, THE VINTAGE WAS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN AVERAGE, BUT (LIKE 2013 ALSO) THERE WAS NO DIMINUTION OF QUALITY. EACH VINTAGE OF *LINEAGE* IS A PAGE IN THE BOOK THAT ULTIMATELY REVEALS THE BRAND AND THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND IT. WHILE WE DILIGENTLY WORK FOR CONSISTENCY OF WORLD-CLASS QUALITY, THE INDIVIDUAL BLENDS ARE A PRODUCT OF THE STATE OF MIND OF THE WINEMAKERS AT THE TIME THE BLEND WAS MADE. AS A WINE MAKER AND WINE LOVER, ONE OF THE JOYS OF EXPERIENCING GREAT WINES IS BEING SUBJECTED TO THE EMOTIONAL POWER OF THAT SPECIFIC WINE. ONLY THOSE WHO LACK IMAGINATION ARE UNMOVED BY HOW A "NEW" GREAT WINE EXPERIENCE REDEFINES WHAT MAKES A WINE GREAT; THIS SENSE OF QUALITY MAKING ITS WAY INTO FUTURE VINTAGES. FOR US THE TEXTURE OF A WINE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND TELLING CHARACTERISTIC. THE RELATIONSHIP OF ACIDITY TO TANNIN, HOW THAT TANNIN EXPRESSES ITSELF, HOW LONG A FINISH THE ACID CREATES IS THE MOST MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP IN WINE. IN *LINEAGE*, ACIDITY (THIS IS THE WINE'S NERVOUS SYSTEM; IT'S SEXINESS AND ELECTRICITY) IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF CABERNET FRANC. IN THIS VINTAGE, CABERNET FRANC IS 35% OF THE FINAL BLEND, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE YET. CABERNET SAUVIGNON (50%) PROVIDES THE SKELETON, MERLOT (10%) THE OPULENT FLESHINESS, AND PETIT VERDOT (5%) THE EXOTIC COLORING. THE 2014 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 2022 – 2035.

HARVEST DATES: SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 9, 2014

CÉPAGE: 50% CABERNET SAUVIGNON (CLONES 30 & 7); 35% CABERNET FRANC; 10% MERLOT; 5% PETIT VERDOT; HARVESTED FROM THE GHIOMETTI ESTATE & HOME RANCH VINEYARDS IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY. ALCOHOL 14.0%

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: 4 OF 9 BARRELS INCLUDED IN THIS BLEND WERE NEW FRENCH OAK (BOUTES, DOREAU, AND FRANÇOIS FRERÈS.) TOTAL AGING TIME WAS 22 MONTHS.

TIME IN BARREL: 22 MONTHS | **BOTTLING DATE:** DECEMBER 14, 2016 | **RELEASE DATE:** OCTOBER 6, 2017

BOTTLES PRODUCED • VINTAGE 2014: 2,400 BOTTLES, 60 MAGNUMS, 5 DOUBLE-MAGNUMS, AND 5 FIVE-LITERS

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