

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE 2018 GRENACHE "SOLITUDE" | LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

Under normal circumstances, especially in California, it is difficult to point to a single event in the growing year that defines the entire harvest season. Such was not the case in 2018. The wild fires that raged in Mendocino County from late July to early September cast a pall on the Livermore Valley for weeks, making work outside extremely difficult and extending harvest by several weeks beyond average. Extreme smoke blocked UV radiation to the grape vines resulting in significantly slow sugar production. There are many ripening curves in the vineyard each year including seed and skin maturity, and pH and TA measures. While sugar production usually races ahead of these other arcs, the fires allowed for many of these elements to ripen at about the same time, and very balanced, high-quality fruit was the result.

WINEMAKER NOTES

We have been making Grenache from the Livermore Valley since the mid-2000s. Grenache is one of the world's mostly widely planted red grapes, making fantastic wines on several continents. Whether alone or with traditional blending partners such as Syrah and Mourvèdre, Grenache is a great partner to most hearty cuisines.

TASTING NOTES

Though somewhat pale garnet in color (a viticultural consequence of direct sunlight on Grenache fruit, tending to bleach the skins of color), very forward aromatics of dusty plum and wild strawberry coupled with acid-driven flavors and great structure more than make up for its lightness in color. 2018 Solitude is a 100% Grenache offering from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard located in the eastern foothills of the Livermore Valley. On entry, 2018 Solitude shows the kind of abundant acidity that is a hallmark of the Steven Kent Winery style and which does a beautiful job of highlighting the delicious fruit and the blossoming of structure on the finish of the wine. Not the equal of 2017 in overall heft, the 2018, nevertheless, shows wonderful layers of flavors and complexity of structure. This is a wine to drink while young to preserve the fruit that is the hallmark of this offering. Serve slightly chilled with charcuterie.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Grenache harvested from the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

October 13, 2018 | pH 3.55 | TA .55 | Alcohol 14.5%

FERMENTATION

The Grenache was fermented in 1.7-ton open-top fermenters. After cold soaking and primary fermentation, the wine was pressed off with no extended maceration.

COOPERAGE

This wine was aged for about 18 months in 30% new French oak.

CASES PRODUCED

107 cases

RELEASE DATE

April 23, 2020

ARTIST

Here's what artist, Lori Pavich, had to say about her artwork: "Animals, antiques and photography have always been my passion. I have always loved my Nikons. I had just upgraded to a fancier model and was experimenting with refracted light and special effects when my "Alley" cat jumped into the frame and just sat there. Such solitude, I thought, undisturbed by all my shutter clicks. I love how her silhouette can easily be the focal point, or gently fade in the background, challenged by such a vibrant palate of color."

