

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY COLLECTOR'S CIRCLE
2019 BARBERA "DURNSTEIN ABBEY ON THE DANUBE"
LIVERMORE VALLEY



ARTIST

Here is what photographer Carol Satterthwaite had to say about her picture: "Durnstein Abbey is in Austria. I took this picture while doing a River Cruise on the Danube River. Durnstein is a quaint little town with this beautiful Abbey. The Wachau Valley, where Durnstein is located, is noted not only for its fabulous wines, but also for its apricots. You can buy apricot schnapps, apricot liqueur, and apricot-infused gin – even jars of apricot liqueur-infused gummies. A totally enchanting place to visit."

HARVEST NOTES

The 2019 vintage in the Livermore Valley told a story that describes California viticulture in miniature. One of the profound gifts of making wine in the Golden State is the temperate nature of the climate. While some regions are naturally cooler or warmer than others, we rarely have to deal with dramatic climatic effects that have destroyed many seasons in Europe over the centuries. The beneficent aspect of the Livermore Valley, in particular, rarely disappoints those of us lucky enough to make wine here. The 2019 vintage produced beautifully ripe fruit – more similar to 2017 than 2018 in terms of mid-palate heft and overall structure. This is a vintage that will be regarded as one of the finer of the last ten years.

WINEMAKER NOTES

Part of the grape culture of California for decades (really since Italian immigrants brought cuttings of their own native varieties before Prohibition) Barbera has not, until recently, been grown here to maximize its beautiful fruit and momentum of acidity through the mouth. Instead, it was used to bring acidity to Central Valley red blends that suffered a lack of balance due to excessive heat at harvest time. But, if grown in the right place (the Livermore Valley is as good a place as any in the US), the grape produces one of the great food wines, full of flavor and great acidity.

TASTING NOTES

Again, Barbera is pulling double duty for The Lineage Collection portfolio. About half of the 2019 vintage of fruit is being made into a unique sparkling rosé under our Mia Nipote brand while the other half was made into our traditional red release under the Steven Kent Winery brand. Consequently, we harvested the fruit from our Home Ranch on two different dates: September 10, 2019 for the rosé and October 12, 2019 for this release. We have been working in the vineyard and the cellar over the past several vintages to create a wine that was as true to the acid-driven, slightly rustic, food-friendly role that its Italian counterpart plays. We believe that we have hit just the right notes of structural alive-ness and stunning flavor in our newest release: Something on the Danube. From an entry of dark fruit undergirded by delicious acidity to the rich and full mid-palate to the long, refreshing finish, this wine will pair beautifully with all kinds of cuisine or as an aperitif to usher in richer wine for the meal. Italian varieties have long been adaptable and ageworthy, and this wine is certainly no exception.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Barbera from the first of our estate vineyards: Home Ranch, located in the center of the 7-mile axis of the premier sites in the Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

September 10, 2019 – October 12, 2019 | pH 3.70 | TA .60 | Alcohol 15.1%

FERMENTATION

Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters. Primary fermentation was completed in 9 days after which the wine was pressed off into barrel.

COOPERAGE

20% new French, and 80% second-use and neutral for 18 months.

CASES PRODUCED

185 cases

RELEASE DATE

February 3, 2021