



## LINEAGE | VINTAGE 2008 | WINE MAKER'S NOTES

Lineage is one of the finest, rarest Bordeaux blends ever produced in California. It is the perfect, exquisite expression of a truly great vineyard site and one winemaker's history and passion in crafting Cabernet-based wines of the highest order. Lineage marries the experience of The Steven Kent Winery with the finely tuned terroir of the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard to produce the ultimate Bordeaux-style statement from the historic Livermore Valley winegrowing district.

The 2008 vintage is our second Lineage release. We chose only the five barrels we deemed of truly superior potential to be included in this offering, declassifying more than 95% of our Bordeaux production. 2008 was an unusually small harvest with yields at Ghielmetti more than 20% below average, providing very focused fruit. It was another fine vintage for our Cabernet blocks: our quality-stalwart Clone – 30 met our high expectations as did Clone 191 and Clone 337. Our other Bordeaux varieties also produced wines of great distinction. After initial tastings were conducted post-malolactic in April 2009, the final blend was assembled in early 2010.

In the nose, the '08 Lineage shows its pedigree in the complex commingling of black fruits, exotic woods, and spice aromatics. Though comprising only 9% of the blend, the rich notes of sandalwood, cherry fruit, and fresh-pressed coffee that typify Cabernet Franc show through a lush core of cassis and semi-sweet chocolate. In the mouth, this wine owes much of its mid-palate fleshiness and tannin to Clone 191 Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. The 2008 Lineage is a wine of great elegance and structure, and it is in these two fundamental characteristics that Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon makes its voice heard. Very young now, this wine would benefit from at least three years of bottle age; with proper cellaring, it should reward patience well into the second decade of the century.

**HARVEST DATES:** OCTOBER 13 – 31, 2008

**FRUIT:** 81% CABERNET SAUVIGNON (CLONES 30, 191, AND 337); 9% CABERNET FRANC; 5% PETIT VERDOT; 3% MALBEC; 2% MERLOT.

**FERMENTATION:** AFTER DESTEMMING AND CRUSHING, EACH VARIETY WAS FERMENTED SEPARATELY IN 1<sup>3/4</sup> TON OPEN-TOPPED FERMENTERS. FERMENTATION AND MACERATION LASTED FROM TWO TO FOUR WEEKS. MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION WAS INDUCED IN BARREL. ALCOHOL 14.1%

**AGING:** FIVE NEW FRENCH OAK BARRELS (FROM THE COOPERAGES OF TARANSAUD, LE GRAND, AND FRANÇOIS FRÈRES) WERE USED IN THE MATURATION OF THIS WINE.

**BOTTLES PRODUCED VINTAGE 2008:** 1,100 BOTTLES, 60 MAGNUMS, 5 DOUBLE-MAGNUMS, 5 FIVE-LITERS

**TIME IN BARREL:** 28 MONTHS | **RELEASE DATE:** AUGUST 25, 2011

LINEAGE · BY THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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