



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## BDX COLLECTION

### 2015 RADIUS XIII | LIVERMORE VALLEY

#### HARVEST NOTES

Despite the absence of rain at harvest and yet another year of drought conditions during the heart of the growing season, the 2015 vintage will be characterized by an hour's worth of hard rain in May that badly damaged blooming flowers on the vine and devastated yields across the State. Early ripening varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc were spared the greatest losses — the most heavily affected were the red Bordeaux varieties —and overall Ghilmetti Estate Vineyard produced only 69% of average. When yields are down, quality tends to rise, and 2015 was no exception. The quality of all of the Cabernet family of grapes was uniformly excellent, and we achieved desired ripeness at relatively low sugar levels. Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc, and Semillon also reached beautiful levels of maturity in the vineyard and have contributed to beautiful wines.

#### WINEMAKER NOTES

Radius XIII —just like all the other wines of the 2015 harvest year — is inextricably tied to its vintage. This vintage, given the weather event described above, hews closely to our preferred style at Steven Kent Winery. Under normal circumstances, I am actively working to reduce the effect of very ripe fruit in our wines. . .2015 gave it to me without my asking. Characterized by a structural leanness and a sense of lively, alive fruit, Radius XIII combines the best virtues of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah into a beautiful, age worthy vinous package. As is typical with this blend – at least in the last several vintages – the fruit for this wine was grown on our estate vineyards, the Home Ranch in the center of the Livermore Valley appellation and Ghilmetti Estate Vineyard in the eastern foothills, 3.4 miles further east. Radius XIII shows all the depth, suppleness of fruit and concision of structure that we seek in this blend. Each variety was vinified separately, aged for about a year, blended, then barreled down for another 8-12 months to allow the parts to become whole. The wine was aged in 100% French oak for a total of 20-24 months.

#### TASTING NOTES

Radius XIII shows a wonderfully complex interplay between the blue/black fruit notes typical of Syrah, the redder (and more herbal) notes of Cabernet Sauvignon and subtle semi-sweet chocolate notes from toasted oak. This latter aromatic quality will recede and become more integrated with bottle age. The richness of aroma is mirrored by the supple fruit on entry. In this vintage, Cabernet Sauvignon (which is 50% of this blend) takes the lead organoleptically, showing red to dark fruit, tannin, and acidity before giving way to the voluptuous dark fruit aromas and flavors of Syrah. We believe strongly in acidity's ability to create a sense of freshness even in the biggest red wine, and in Radius XIII, the wine's acid line runs briskly through the mouth, both leavening the voluptuous quality of Syrah and carrying the wine to a very long, mouth-watering conclusion. With proper storage, this wine will continue to evolve beautifully for 5-8 years.

#### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

50% Syrah harvested from the Ghilmetti Estate Vineyard, in the eastern foothills of Livermore Valley. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Home Ranch Vineyard.

#### HARVEST DATA

October 2015 | pH 3.60 | TA 0.65 | Alcohol 14.3%

#### FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing each lot of fruit was fermented separately in 1¾ ton, open-topped fermenters. Fermentation and maceration lasted about three weeks.

#### COOPERAGE

20 months in 100% French oak; 50-60% of which was new.

#### CASES PRODUCED

190 cases

#### RELEASE DATE

October 13, 2018

2015



RADIUS  
XIII

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