



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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## BDX COLLECTION

### 2015 CABERNET FRANC | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2015



CABERNET  
FRANC

THE STEVEN KENT WINERY  
BDX COLLECTION  
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 Ghielmetti 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

The 2015 Cabernet Franc BDX Collection was made from 100% Cabernet Franc harvested from Block 4 at the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard in the eastern foothills of the Livermore Valley. Fermented in 1.7 ton open-top fermenters, the wine was aged in 30% new French oak barrels for 18-20 months. Only eight barrels from a larger lot were deemed of great-enough quality to be designated BDX Collection.

#### TASTING NOTES

Cabernet Franc is at its most compelling when the variety's characteristic herbal aromatic signature is allowed to express itself unfettered by obvious oak. In this offering, the lack of new oak aromas and flavors serves to highlight the gorgeous interplay between red and dark fruit notes and the customary herbal aromas that separate this variety from its bigger offspring — Cabernet Sauvignon. With great entry acid and a dramatic mid-palate-to-finish momentum, this wine showcases a vision for Cabernet Franc that is in keeping with the world-class potential of the Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard and the Livermore Valley.

#### VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Block 4 – eastern foothills Livermore Valley.

#### HARVEST DATA

September 18, 2015 | pH 3.55 | TA 0.65 | Alcohol 13.0%

#### FERMENTATION

Cold soaked for 5-7 days, individual fermenters inoculated with CSM, GRE, and NT112 yeast strains. Extended maceration of 18 days followed primary fermentation.

#### COOPERAGE

Aged for 20 months in 30% new French oak barrels. Primary cooperages were Le Grand, Taransaud, and François Frères.

#### CASES PRODUCED

192 cases

#### RELEASE DATE

June 2, 2018