



THE STEVEN KENT WINERY

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BDX COLLECTION 2014 MERLOT | LIVERMORE VALLEY

2014



MERLOT

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BDX COLLECTION
LIVERMORE VALLEY

HARVEST NOTES

2014 was one of the earliest harvests the Livermore Valley has on record. We harvested our first fruit 18 days earlier this year than in the previous vintage, and our last day of harvest was two weeks earlier than 2013. The same conditions – even temperatures and an almost complete lack of rainfall – that were found in 2013 were seen in 2014, as well. Challenging water quality persisted as some blocks on our estate vineyards exhibited the tell-tale signs of pH imbalance (in burned leaves and less than ideal ripening). Overall, the quality of fruit we received at the Winery was uniformly high, and our most important blocks – though not quite as fine as the historically great 2013 – was as good as any other vintage in the past 10 years.

WINEMAKER NOTES

As with all of our BDX varietals, Merlot is hand-picked, destemmed, and fermented in small open-topped boxes. After a 5-7 day cold-soak period (when color is gently extracted and indigenous yeast are allowed to begin fermentation), primary fermentation will last about 7 days. Depending upon the vintage – and in 2014 this pertained – we extend maceration for 7-21 days longer, until we feel the wine has acquired the appropriate stability of structure. Consistent with a growing affinity for up-front fruit versus new oak aromas and flavors, this wine was aged in French oak barrels (only 45% of which were new) for 20 months.

TASTING NOTES

As much as we loved the 2013 vintage, at this point in its life, the 2014 is showing even more promise. The 2014 is showing magnificent structure, with beautiful weightiness (without being ponderous), and a persistent tannic presentation through the mouth that nicely undergirds the wine's substantial fruit. On entry, one notices beautiful black cherry fruit, the dried herbs that are complexing agents in the nose and a dusty earthiness that throws the abundant fruit into even greater relief. The 2014 BDX Collection Merlot's mid-palate is long and full, and the wine finishes with great length and acidity. This wine will age beautifully – with proper storage – for 7-10 years.

VINEYARD SOURCE(S)

100% Merlot from Ghielmetti Estate Vineyard, Blocks 6 & 9 – eastern foothills Livermore Valley.

HARVEST DATA

Oct 10-18, 2014 | pH 3.61 | TA 0.64 | Alcohol 14.7%

FERMENTATION

After destemming and crushing each lot of fruit was fermented separately in 1 ¾ ton, open-topped fermenters. Fermentation and maceration lasted about three weeks.

COOPERAGE

20 months in 100% French oak, 45% of which was new.

CASES PRODUCED

190 cases

RELEASE DATE

August 5, 2017