

# T O R

## TOR Cuvée Susan 2007

74% Cabernet Sauvignon - Napa Valley - Howell Mountain - Cimarossa Vineyard  
26% Syrah - Napa Valley - Carneros - Hudson Vineyard  
450 cases | Released July 2009

### Vintage

Everyone was most excited as the harvest began in 2007. Lee Hudson, proprietor of Hudson Vineyard had predicted it to be the "vintage of the century". Maybe Lee was onto something because now that we are putting the wines in bottle they are superb.

### Vineyards

Cimarossa is 2100 feet high on Howell Mountain overlooking the Napa Valley. Our block #10 is one of the steepest in the vineyard with the distinctive reddish Howell Mountain soil type. Year in year out - there is that unmistakable graphite, pencil led, mineral nose and flavor to the wines from this block that set it apart from our other single vineyard Cabernets.

Hudson Vineyard is easily one of the great vineyards of Napa Carneros, with a history for world class Chardonnay and Syrah. We love our block which is planted to two clones - Alban and Syrah Noir. Lee Hudson is a great grape farmer and friend for several decades now.

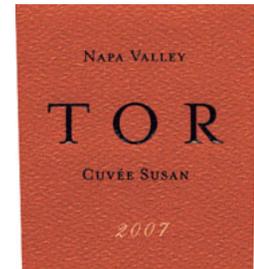
### Wine and Winemaking

This wine is named after my patient and loving wife, Susan. I have named wines after my mother and father, my son and daughter, and it was about time to find a wine for Susan. Did I say patience, try sainthood.

Winemaking, 100% destemmed Syrah and Cabernet. French Burgundy barrels for the Syrah consisting of 100% Francois Freres, mostly Tauransad French oak barrels for the Cabernet. This is a wine that Jeff and I have dreamed we would make – always knowing great Cabernet and Syrah have a great affinity.

### Winemaker's tasting Notes

Dark garnet red to the core with no lightening at the rim. This has a wonderful saturation of color. On the nose there is a dusty graphite quality, crushed blackberries, mulled spices and sweet oak. On the palate the entry is simply seamless. The mid palate is full and rich and coats the palate from side to side. Roasted meats, spices- cloves and spearmint trail off to a long and supple finish that shows no trace of bitterness or angularity but is loaded with sweetness and silk. Seamless is probably the word that would best be used to describe this wine. A great example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.



"...possesses a deep, blue/purple color as well as notes of roasted meats, herbs, lavender, pepper, *crème de cassis*, and blackberries. Rich, full-bodied, structured, and slightly foreboding, it needs another year or two of bottle age, and should evolve for a decade or more."

Rated (90+) by  
Robert Parker, Jr.  
"The Wine Advocate"

"(a 73/27 combination of Howell Mountain cabernet sauvignon and Hudson Vineyard syrah; tasted two days before the bottling) Saturated medium ruby. Aromas of black raspberry, minerals, smoked meat, licorice and crushed rock; showing its syrah side. Then silky and sweet in the mouth, with terrific mineral lift to the musky dark berry flavors. Finishes very long, with sweet, layered tannins. Boasts a texture of liquid velvet, but the minerally aftertaste offers excellent grip."

Rated 91-93 by  
Stephen Tanzer  
"International Wine Cellar"