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TOR Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, 2014

BLEND: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PRODUCTION: 200 CASES | RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 2017

Vintage

2014 was the third consecutive vintage of superlative fruit quality. The year began under the drought conditions, but we received two very well timed and high volume rains in February and March that provided the vines with the hits of water that they needed to kick start the season. Bud-break was perhaps 10-14 days earlier than 'normal' but with a cool spring, the actual flowering was approximately a week earlier than 'normal'. Crop load was good, like 2012 and 2013, so fruit thinning was essential to quality. Mountain vineyards were ok with one to two thinning passes, where the valley floor sites normally required two or more passes to get a more balanced load. When all the fruit was in, we all looked back on our third straight high quality vintage.

Winemaking

The 2014 To Kalon Cabernet was a fantastic smooth, even fermentation for us and took about 16 days to finish. The resulting wine is full of sweet ripe fruit and leans more to the dark fruit than red. This was given no more than two pump-overs a day and toward the end of its fermentation was only given a single pump-over each day. After pressing the wine slightly, it was moved to its traditional mix of Darnajou and Taransaud wood. This wine received the normal three racking's until bottling.

Vineyard

Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive world-wide accolades, particularly in the last decade. The vineyard is on a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville appellation. Top soils are Bale loam/Bale clay loam, and running through the middle and west side of the vineyard are remnants of old stream beds riddled with rock. For the last decade we have worked with six blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and two blocks of Cabernet Franc. Each vintage tells a different story, and the best wines can be single blocks, or blends of blocks.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

This year's To Kalon Cabernet is a clear example of just why the Beckstoffer To Kalon vineyard is considered one of Napa's "First Growth" vineyards. This wine shows the immense core of sweet, ripe tannins that allow for the graceful evolution in the cellar but also the incredible complexity of fruit and extract that allow it to be consumed young. Here is the loamy earth, blackberries and macerated red cherries that To Kalon is so able to do. What makes this wine so remarkable as well is just how broad its drinking window will be. This will be amazing on release and likely never really shut down.

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