



TOR

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, Melanson Vineyard, 2014

BLEND: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PRODUCTION: 50 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 Melanson Vineyard Cabernet is from select barrels of fruit from this iconic hillside vineyard. This wine spent a few extra days on its skins for a total of around 19 days as opposed to our normal 14-16 days. On these extra days it received a 'cap wetter' pump-over of a few minutes every other day. The tannins in the wine continued to get sweeter and sweeter after primary fermentation was done so we left it on its skins for the additional time. This was put down to a mix of new Darnajou and Taransaud barrels.

Vineyard

Pritchard Hill is one of Napa Valley's great sites for big boned, dense, very complex Cabernet Sauvignons. We think this is one of Pritchard Hill's top vineyards. Greg Melanson's vineyard is very steep with rows running up and down the hill directly across from Colgin Winery and Estate vineyard. Beyond Colgin its rocky face looks down at Napa Valley's floor. Like many of the best sites on Pritchard Hill, its higher elevation and afternoon breezes coming from the Pacific cools the vineyard in the warm afternoons. Ideal real estate for world class Cabernet. One of the most celebrated wines from the 2013 vintage.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2014 Melanson Vineyard Cabernet slides more to the black fruit end of the spectrum than did the 2013 version. This shows the same density and richness on the palate as the 2013 but with a more floral element to the wine and perhaps a bit more silky palate impression. You will find loads of blackberries, currants and smoked tri-tip. This seems to be begging for a few years in the cellar but with the stuffing and density of the wine it should easily go 15 years+ and only get better and better.

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