



T O R

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon

Napa Valley, 2014

BLEND: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PRODUCTION: 500 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.

Vineyards

We only make a "Napa Valley" bottling when we feel that the sum of the parts are equally as brilliant as any one of our single vineyard wines. To get to that end, we taste and work with all our vineyards – To Kalon, Melanson, Tierra Roja, Cimarossa, Herb Lamb, and Vine Hill Ranch – to find the right blend. In 2014 it is predominately Melanson Vineyard and smaller percentages of the others.

Winemaking

The 2014 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented as individual wines and then blended back after many blending trials. The Melanson Cabernet base wine was left on its skins for a little over 15 days and given no more than two pump-overs a day. The other components were put down to about 60% new wood that was a mix of Darnajou, Taransaud, Sylvain and Ermitage. The goal on this wine is not to make the biggest, most massive wine of the vintage, but is instead to blend a complete and complex wine that shows both the vintage and the best qualities of each vineyard that went into it.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2014 Napa Cabernet again shows what was best about the 2014 vintage with the sweet/forward fruit of the vintage. The palate is medium/full weight with very round and unobtrusive tannins. This shows a great mix of both red and black fruits with red cherries, blueberries, black raspberries and bright focusing acidity. This is a fantastic introduction to both the 2014 vintage and TOR Cabernets.

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