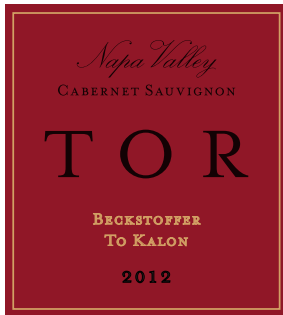


T O R



TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, 2012

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 975 cases
Release date: January 2015

Vintage

It is funny, but “classic” and “perfect” are words bantered about a lot about this bountiful, beautiful vintage. To me it was “classic” growing conditions - early bud break, no frost damage, relatively dry spring, with less than an inch in April, then nothing till October, and less than an inch that final month of harvest. One heat spike in June, another in early October, but just beautiful otherwise, with very cool evenings and warm, idyllic days. It was a ‘perfect’ year to be a farmer. Yet a vintner had to beware, for after two very short crops in 2010 and 2011 - 2012 set a big crop that had to be thinned many times. We managed this crop religiously in all our vineyards, some with draconian vigor, and because of that, only can I roughly use the word, “perfect”. Man had to interfere to bring things into balance for what will easily be termed a great Napa Valley vintage.

Vineyards

Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive worldwide 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. This is the first year all the Cabernet Sauvignon blocks seem to all fit together in one blend. When this happens we simply and proudly say “The sum is greater than the parts.”

Winemaking

The 2012 To Kalon Cabernet was one of the longest and slowest fermentations we have ever had. This helped to preserve the fruit and extract more color and sweet tannin. 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 rackings, instead of the two in 2011.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

What more can be said about To Kalon that has not already been said? The To Kalon vineyard in Oakville is in one of the (if not THE) premier spots in the Napa Valley. It has a well-earned reputation for making wines that are powerful but somehow retain finesse. Wines that are rich and intense but are drinkable in their youth, and also 10 years later. In short, wines like the 2012 To Kalon Cabernet. This is the best To Kalon Cabernet since 2006 in my opinion. It shows the loamy, earthy side of west Oakville, allied with sweet, rich black and red fruit, as well as licorice and burning embers. This has an absolutely uncanny ability to have intense richness but still be light and flowing on the palate. I don’t think that there will be a ‘bad’ time to drink this vintage. It is showing wonderfully now and should continue to do so for the next 10 years, at least.