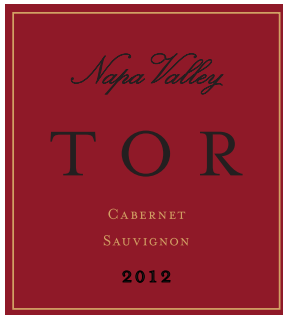


T O R



TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley, 2012

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 400 cases 750ml
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

We make a Napa Valley blend only when we feel that the sum-of-its-parts are as brilliant as any of our single vineyard wines. A new vineyard on Pritchard Hill, Melanson, is our lodestar, along with a significant amount of Tierra Roja, and Mast and a smaller percentage of To Kalon to fill in the gaps. With these outstanding vineyards this wine would be for many, a “Reserve” wine, or a “Signature” wine. For us it is our “Napa Valley”, and like our single vineyard wines we make very little of it. What does make it to bottle is always meant to be something you can “reserve” for special occasions.

Winemaking

The 2012 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented as individual wines and then blended back after many blending trials. The Mast Cabernet base wine was left on its skins for a little over 18 days and given between 2-3 pump-overs a day. The wine was slightly sweet, as is normal when it went to barrel. The Mast Cabernet was put down to about 60% new wood that was a mix of 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 2012 Napa Cabernet shows just how great this vintage was from a valley perspective. This is a blend of Mast in Yountville, Melanson on Pritchard Hill, Tierra Roja in Oakville, and To Kalon in Oakville. The blending of these three different vineyards produced what is easily the best Napa Cabernet we have ever produced. The 2012 Napa Cabernet is immediately drinkable with silky sweet tannins and loads of red fruit. The wood, acidity and tannins are all in perfect balance so all you get is the great blackberry, cherry and sweet vanilla. This is the wine to drink while you wait for your designates to be at peak. Drink this between 2013 and 2020.