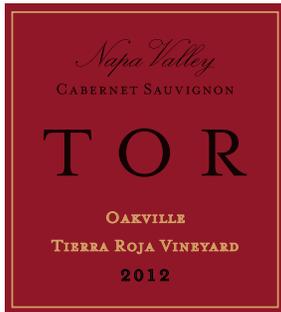


T O R



TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Tierra Roja Vineyard, 2012

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 315 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

Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail then look directly forward and up and you see Tierra Roja, a small four acre jewel of a hillside vineyard. Great neighbors – Backus, Screaming Eagle, Maya and Rudd. The vineyard is dotted with big rocks, and the soil is definitely roja (very red). You might expect the wines to be massive, but they are very perfumed, dark, and complex - more like Screaming Eagle than neighbor Dalla Valle.

Winemaking

The 2012 Tierra Roja Cabernet was again a wonderful wine to ferment. This vineyard seems to give off more of the finished wine smells while it is fermenting – more so than any of the other vineyards. Out of the tank you can actually smell the blackberry and meat. This was fermented for about 17 days on its skins and then put down to almost 100% Darnajou wood - along with a small amount of Taransaud and Sylvain. We gave the Tierra Roja two pump-overs a day – and it fermented like a dream.

Winemaker’s Tasting Notes

The Tierra Roja cab is always a fascinating one to make since it is almost directly across the valley from To Kalon, yet comes out as a totally different wine due to its red, rocky soils and different exposure. This wine shows its typical black fruit dominated self with just a hint of bay leaf and evergreen. It has one of the most mouth filling attacks that you will ever try. Despite the size of this wine it still comes off as light on its feet from the acidity that this site retains. There is no other way to describe it than to say this is an absolute joy to drink. This may be one of the rare wines that is always drinkable and never goes into a ‘dumb’ phase, so drink 2013-2025.