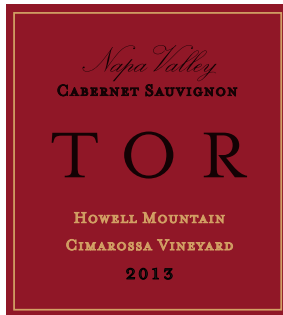


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TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard, 2013

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 225 cases
Release Date: January 2016

Vintage

It started with a warm, early, and dry spring. This is always an advantage, for it gets everything starting uniformly on the right path. The set was smaller than 2012. At the end of June we saw a few days of our only 100 degree weather for the year, then back to ideal growing conditions until we wanted to pick. Some white varietals started to come in the first part of August, making it one of the earliest harvests in recent history. Cabernet Sauvignon was the latest. In September the weather began its fall cooling cycle, and a few light showers slowed the growing pattern till October when we picked most of our Cabernet Family grapes. A long, beautiful growing season for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vineyards

“Cimarossa” means ‘red hill top’ in Italian, which aptly defines this very special hillside vineyard, planted on a volcanic cinder cone. The elevation is 2,100 feet, and the soils are predominately red volcanic rock and dust. Not much can be cultivated on these steep hills besides vines and some olive trees (which produce my favorite California olive oil). This is a special place: the clusters are small, the berries are tiny, but the flavors are BIG! Our 2009 Cimarossa earned the highest *Wine Spectator* score for this appellation, ever - and in 2011 it earned one of the highest scores for the vintage.

Winemaking

The 2013 Cimarossa Cabernet was again a fantastic, smooth and quick fermentation. This wine we like to get in tank and get it fermenting quickly so the total time in tank is a little bit less than the rest of the Cabernets. We do this in order to keep from extracting too much of the big Howell Mountain tannins. We feel (and think it is proven by the wines) that this quicker ferment extracts enough but allows the sweet fruit to stay in the forefront of the wine. This is generally put down to almost all new, medium toast Darnajou barrels.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

As amazing as previous Cimarossa Cabernets have been, this might be the best we have ever done. Hidden underneath an enormously structured and rich wine is a fantastic mix of blue and black fruit, floral qualities and a wine that is delicious now but that will be a fantastic candidate to hand down to your children. Any fan of Howell Mountain Cabernets will want this wine in their cellar. Anyone who is not a fan of Howell Mountain Cabernets will be a fan after tasting this wine. A monumental Howell Mountain Cabernet.