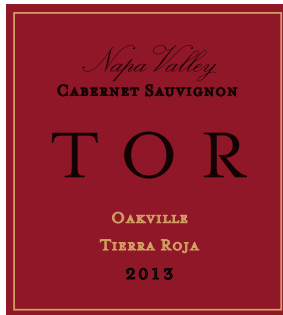


T O R



TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Tierra Roja 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

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 2013 Tierra Roja was its normal, fantastic self. This has proven to be one of the most smooth and good natured fermentations we have each year. It gets the standard two pump-overs a day for the first ten days or so and then gets pressed slightly sweet to almost all new Taransaud barrels. This wine always strikes me because the fermenting and the finished wine are probably the closest in flavor and aromatics of any of the Cabernets that we make.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2013 Tierra Roja follows in the string of stunning Tierra Roja Cabernets. The 2013 shows a little bit more overt structure than the 2010-2012s, but has all of the same amazing aromatics that are pure Tierra Roja, distinctive and memorable. It has tremendous dark fruits, blackberry, cassis and chili spice. On the palate there is great intensity to the mid-palate that simply explodes when you taste it. I have been lucky enough to have had the 2012 Tierra Roja and 2012 Cimarossa Cabernets numerous times and to me this wine tastes like a blend of those two wines - the structure of 2012 Cimarossa with the fruit of the 2012 Tierra Roja. Another winner.