

# TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

## OAKVILLE PROPRIETARY RED WINE 2015

**VINEYARD** For Jeff and I, this wine defies gravity. The anti-gravity part is the blend – 44% Cabernet Franc, 44% Petit Verdot, and 12% Cabernet. This wine is a candidate for 100 points from Robert Parker. All three grapes are part of the Bordeaux family of grapes – Cinq Cépages. It is rare in many of the First Growth Bordeaux sites for the Petit Verdot to fully ripen, and it is treasured when it does. In 2015 it reached full maturity at Vine Hill Ranch, and it is a big part of the wine’s profile. Proving without a doubt, this wine can reach new heights with the addition of the highest quality Cabernet Franc. I don’t know of any wine on either side of the ocean that resembles this wine, except perhaps a young La Mission Haut Brion. Usually, I don’t compare Bordeaux to California, but this is an exception to that rule.

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**WINEMAKING** Each lot was fermented separately and then after multiple blending trials we arrived at the final blend. It is a classic Bordeaux blend, the percentages are flipped on their heads a bit with the larger percentage of PV. The CS brings the sweet fruit to the blend, the CF the earthy components and the PV brings the spice and lift. As different as the blend is, they all worked together beautifully and have created one of the top wines of the vintage for us.

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**WINEMAKER’S TASTING NOTES** This is the second year we have made this wine at TOR. The combination of Cabernet, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot has produced a wine unlike any other wines we made in 2015. This wine has a slightly more rich profile than the 2014, but still with the structure and complexity that the blend of these varietals bring to the mix. Think of this wine as a La Mission Haut Brion meets Oakville in all the best possible ways.

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**VINTAGE** Over my decades as a Napa vintner I have gained great respect for “drought years.” They are yin and yang years, where a farmer has to pay very close attention to each vine. In years like 2015, every vine was pushed to the limit – its access to water, its survival. The survivors make up small crops - that is the “yin.” The “yang” is - the quality can be off the charts.

In 2015, we suffered up to 45% losses in several blocks. It was an early start, but cool weather during flowering in May contributed to a less than normal fruit set. The berries that did set were generally much smaller than usual. Once the set was complete, we had warm to very warm conditions up to and through harvest. There was no rush to judgement on when to pick, we had plenty of space at the winery for the short crop, and all the fruit was in before the winter storms started to line up off the coast. Initially, I did not pass judgement on this vintage; but now having tasted all the wines in bottle – it is a great one in all respects.

CASES PRODUCED: 375

