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N A P A V A L L E Y

BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2016

VINEYARD Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive world-wide accolades, particularly in the last decade. The vineyard is on a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville appellation. Top soils are Bale loam/Bale clay loam and running through the middle and west side of the vineyard are remnants of old stream beds riddled with rock. For the last decade, we have worked with six blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and two blocks of Cabernet Franc. Each vintage tells a different story, and the best wines can be single blocks, or blends of blocks.

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WINEMAKING The 2016 To Kalon Cabernet was once again fermented with all of our clone 337 Cabernet from our rows at the back of the vineyard. This block is always thinned to one cluster per shoot and that thinning (as rough as it is to see) allows for very even ripening and development. The To Kalon was on its skins for a fairly normal amount of time and did not need the full extra week-10 days that we utilized on the other Cabernets. For this wine we continued to use a mix of Darnajou and Taransaud barrels.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Once you learn the smell of To Kalon it is one of the easiest wine to pick out of a line up. That distinct mix of red and black fruits along with damp earth and a touch of mint always shows through. This year's To Kalon is one of the finest we have ever produced (and we have made To Kalon for 13 years!). The complex interplay of earth and fruit makes this wine unique each and every year. As with all To Kalons that we have made, this will actually be pretty approachable on release but should age effortlessly for at least 10 years.

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VINTAGE To put it simply – this was one of our great modern vintages in the Napa Valley. It almost had a Bordeaux feeling to it – moderate rainfall for all but three months before the real rains arrived in October. By then, everything was in the barn. No significant heat spikes, which made for a very long, even growing season. I have only one complaint with our vineyard sites – I wish I had more grapes to harvest. Cluster size and weights were down, and we were 20% off average when we finished picking. It was one of those years when everything lined-up; you couldn't help but wish for more grapes. Spectacular quality, both reds and whites. The wines have deep colors, structure, concentration, and depth of flavor.

CASES PRODUCED: 625

