

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

BLACK MAGIC CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2016

TOR'S NOTE Real magic cannot be explained or reasoned. It is astonishing and challenges our imagination. It is in this wine. Here is the essence of Cabernet Sauvignon co-fermented with Petit Verdot (a first for us), making it as black as a moonless Napa Valley night. It will not be made every year, only those years when we feel a special presence. For Black Magic you need not, should not, know more.

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WINEMAKING The Black Magic is simply a wine that stands out in an outstanding vintage. This is only our fourth vintage. The 2016, for both Tor and me, stood out as one of the landmark wines we have made in our 18-year history. It stands out on so many levels, with layers and layers of complexity. Atypical for us in terms of fermentation length, this vintage spent almost three weeks on its skins, getting better and better and sweeter and sweeter in tannin profile. This was aged in almost all new Darnajou barrels and two Taransaud small French oak barrels.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Where to start with the 2016 Black Magic? This might be my single favorite wine ever for TOR in 18 years. This has so much going on it's hard to describe. There is licorice, meats and very dark black fruits on the nose. The palate is rich and complex with very full weight, tons of structure, espresso and blackberries. This is a wine that you think you have figured out and then it shows you something totally new.

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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: 200

