

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2018

VINEYARD Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive worldwide accolades, and has been said to be the most famous vineyard in Napa Valley. The site is set along a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville Appellation. Top-soils are Bale loan/Bale clay loam and running through the middle and west side of the vineyard are remnants of ancient streambeds 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 either be single blocks or blends of blocks.

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WINEMAKING Often our To Kalons show a lot more fruit or “flesh” at this stage, but this one is darker and deeper than most we have made from our eight blocks in To Kalon. Maybe this is because we thin each vine to one cluster per shoot, and most probably it is one that will be evolving for a very long time. Matured in 100% Darnajou small French oak barrels for twenty months and bottled without fining or filtration.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES What can be said about To Kalon that has not been said a million times before. Every year To Kalon makes an amazing Cabernet and then there are years like 2018 where the vineyard shows you that there are heights that you hadn't explored yet. This year (our 14th vintage in To Kalon) is going to fight for the top wine we have ever made from this hallowed site. The black fruits/earth/mint/weight are all there but they are as Spinal Tap fans know ‘turned up to 11’. The remarkable quality of 2018 pushed this year's To Kalon to an even higher level of magnitude.

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VINTAGE 2018 was a very long and overall cool vintage which aided its longevity and hang time. The grape set was under ideal conditions in the Spring, and the clusters on average were larger than normal, full, and picture perfect. Hollywood clusters, show offs; a beautiful and large set. We thinned (dropped fruit) more radically than we did in 2017 and 2016, one cluster per shoot in To Kalon. Still, by harvest it was on average a good 10 to 15% more than we had initially anticipated. Long, long hang time, picture perfect clusters, no real heat spikes, and an even and long picking season.

97-100 points — *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*

97-100 points — *Jeb Dunnuck*

CASES PRODUCED: 300

RETAIL BOTTLE PRICE: \$225

