

# TOR

NAPA VALLEY

## TIERRA ROJA VINEYARD CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2018

**VINEYARD** Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail, then directly look forward and up. This is Tierra Roja, a four-acre jewel of a hillside vineyard. Great neighbors – Backus, Screaming Eagle, Maya and Rudd. Dotted with big rocks, the soil is definitely roja (very red). You might expect the wines to be massive, but they are perfumed, dark and complex, in the style of Screaming Eagle. Linda Neal has been tending this jewel of a vineyard since 1987. Today Neal sells her fruit to no other winery but ours. It was a long wait until we finally released our first TOR Tierra Roja Cabernet in 2010.

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**WINEMAKING** Tor's favorite Tierra Roja to date, this is the second barrel selection, more focused on darker fruits. You could look at this as the Reserve Tierra Roja.

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**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** The 2018 Tierra Roja shows more red fruits than the other vineyard designated Cabernets in 2018 but for this vineyard that is typical. This year though the black fruit component is a VERY black fruit profile with blackberries, brisket bark and road tar. As always the tannin profile is quite sweet and supple. This is probably one of the most seamless Tierra Rojas we have made and should have an accordingly long life with good storage.

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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 points – Joe D' Angelo, *International Wine Report*

95 points – Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*

