

TOR

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Tierra Roja Vineyards, 2010

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 300 cases
Release date: January 2013

Vintage

2010 defied gravity. It shouldn't have been a great vintage for Cabernet Sauvignon, but we think it is one of our best for the Cabernet Sauvignon vineyards we work with in the Napa Valley. So what happened? A very late and wet start pushed back bud break, bloom, and set which contributed to a very small crop. It was a cool summer until August when finally the heat was turned on. At this point we had to go out into the vineyards to remove any sunburn, which resulted in even less crop. Then, as can happen in the special years, a glorious Indian summer allowed us to ripen fully what little crop we had. It was a lot of work, but when we tasted the young wines we were most impressed.

Vineyards

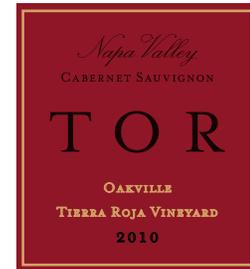
Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail then look directly forward and up and you see Tierra Roja, a small jewel of a hillside vineyard. Great neighbors – Backus, Screaming Eagle, Maya and Rudd - but Tierra Roja is smaller than these and hand cared for by Linda Neil. The vineyard is dotted with big rocks, and the soil is definitely Roja (very red). You would expect the wines to be massive, but they are very perfumed, dark, and complex. This is our first bottling of this unique and special terroir.

Winemaking

The 2010 Tierra Roja Cabernet is our first wine from this amazing Eastern hillside vineyard. The berries in this vineyard were amazingly small and the fruit set was super loose. The fermentation on this was run a little bit cooler than the To Kalon and the Mast Vineyard wines to prevent over extracting from the thick skinned/small berries. This was done at 2 pump overs a day as opposed to the 3 a day on the To Kalon. After an 18 day fermentation this was put down to mostly Darnajou barrels with the rest being made up of Taransaud.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

This wine has been amazing to track since it comes from the warmer side of Oakville yet tastes like it comes from a cooler site. This shows very dark fruits - copious black cherries, black berries along with a touch of peppermint. On the palate this wine pulls you in with an absolutely seamless palate and tremendous length. A great addition to the Cabernet program that shows how different the East and West hills of Oakville can be from each other. Since this is the first vintage from Tierra Roja, there is no back vintage to gauge the aging curve but with its impeccable balance it should hang in there with the best of the vintage.



"The 2010 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Tierra Roja Vineyard is so elegant and refined with intense dark currants, wild berries, minerals and even some hints of crushed floral. This shows excellent focus and balance supported by fine tannins. It finishes up graceful, seductive and ultra-long. Very pretty wine with lots of style."

95

International Wine Report
August 2012

"...endowed with serious minerality and pure energy. Dark red berries, menthol and licorice all meld together in a deep, powerful Cabernet Sauvignon loaded with structure and power. The Tierra Roja is all about minerality, with layer after layer of crushed rocks, iron and graphite notes that grace the finish."

94

Antonio Galloni
The Wine Advocate
December 2012