



TOR

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon

Oakville, Tierra Roja Vineyard, 2014

BLEND: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PRODUCTION: 216 CASES | RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 2017

Vintage

2014 was the third consecutive vintage of superlative fruit quality. The year began under the drought conditions, but we received two very well timed and high volume rains in February and March that provided the vines with the hits of water that they needed to kick start the season. Bud-break was perhaps 10-14 days earlier than 'normal' but with a cool spring, the actual flowering was approximately a week earlier than 'normal'. Crop load was good, like 2012 and 2013, so fruit thinning was essential to quality. Mountain vineyards were ok with one to two thinning passes, where the valley floor sites normally required two or more passes to get a more balanced load. When all the fruit was in, we all looked back on our third straight high quality vintage.

Winemaking

The 2014 Tierra Roja was fermented in a closed top tank for 20 days with no more than two pump-overs a day. This stays on its skins a little longer than the mountain Cabernets since the tannins of the East Oakville hillsides are so sweet that there is no concern on over extraction. This is put into mostly new Taransaud barrels for about 18-20 months before being bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Vineyard

Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail then look directly forward and up and you see Tierra Roja, a small four acre jewel of a hillside vineyard. Great neighbors – Backus, Screaming Eagle, Maya and Rudd. The vineyard is dotted with big rocks, and the soil is definitely roja (very red). You might expect the wines to be massive, but they are very perfumed, dark, and complex - more like Screaming Eagle than neighbor Dalla Valle.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The 2014 Tierra Roja continues a run of amazing Cabernets off of this singular site in the Eastern Oakville hillsides. Anyone who looks at this site, be they winemakers or newbies, understands just why these wines are so amazing. The slope, exposure and red rocky soils are just like heaven to Cabernet. This always shows a wonderful mix of red and black fruits and has such tremendous balance that there is no real beginning, middle or end. It is just an impression of seamless sweet Cabernet fruit with a bright lifted earth profile allied with blackberry, cassis and blueberry. This is easily one of the most amazing sites a Napa Cabernet can come from and the classic site where the goal is to just get out of the way and not screw it up.

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