

International WINE REPORT

TOR KENWARD Cabernet Sauvignon 'Black Magic' 2014

100

The 2014 'Black Magic' Cabernet Sauvignon is a masterpiece from Tor Kenward. The selection of fruit for this wine comes from the best barrels, regardless of what part of the valley they are from. The result is a simply monumental wine, which delivers seductive aromas of blackberries and dark currants woven together with sweet spices, mocha, graphite, spicebox and hints of floral all coming together and bursting from the glass. On the palate this full-bodied, voluptuous red is well structured and balanced, as it continues to impress with its deep layers and concentrated flavors of ripe dark fruits, sweet spices and mocha, which all cascade across the palate. This profound wine demonstrates a gorgeous textural richness with an opulent mouthfeel and polished tannins leading up to the exceedingly long finish. Tor and winemaker Jeff Ames have achieved something incredibly special and rare with this wine, as they were able to combine remarkable power, depth and concentration, while keeping it all in balance, resulting in a flawless wine. While this is already extremely delicious, I expect it to continue to evolve gracefully and drink beautifully for decades to come. (Best 2019-2040) - *January, 2017 (JD)*

TOR KENWARD Proprietary Red, Oakville 2014

98

The 2014 Oakville Red is a simply dazzling blend from Tor Kenward and winemaker Jeff Ames, which is composed of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Each of these varietals beautifully showcase their individual characteristics as they take shape and form the striking aromas of fresh blackberries and cassis along with spices, tobacco, leather, dried earth and a gorgeous fresh violet character, which all come together and soar from the glass. On the palate this is well structured, possessing a wonderful rich, voluptuous mouthfeel and impeccable overall balance and depth. It continues to impress with its outstanding focus and layers of beautiful ripe dark fruits, spices and tobacco notes expanding on to the long, supple finish. This displays exceptional purity and I expect this to continue to evolve over the course of the next decade and beyond. That being said, even at this young age this is already absolutely compelling. (Best 2018-2034) - *January, 2017 (JD)*

TOR KENWARD Cabernet Sauvignon, Cimarossa Vineyard 2014

97

The 2014 Cimarossa Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is another incredible showing from Tor in this vintage. This absolutely seductive Howell Mountain Cabernet begins with aromatics of blackberries and dark currants woven together with sweet pipe tobacco, smoke, crème de cassis, graphite, spicebox, floral, fresh minerals and subtle hints of dark chocolate. On the palate this showcases its gorgeous Mountain characteristics, as it bursts onto a rich, full body with remarkable concentration and depth with penetrating layers of crème de cassis, black cherries, dark chocolate and exotic spices. It continues to impress as it delivers its dense, complex flavors, which cascade onto the long, multidimensional finish. While this is already exceedingly delicious, I also expect this to evolve and age gracefully for decades to come. (Best 2017-2037) - *January, 2017(JD)*

TOR KENWARD Cabernet Sauvignon, Melanson Vineyard 2014

97

Tor Kenward seems to have done it again with another sensational Cabernet Sauvignon in 2014. This time from the Melanson Vineyard in Pritchard Hill, where the vineyard is situated on steep hillsides directly across from Colgin's Estate vineyard. This wine is made from select barrels of fruit from this hillside vineyard and aged in a mix of new Darnajou and Taransaud barrels. As this slowly begins to open it releases wonderful aromas of black cherries and dark currents which are woven together with graphite, spices, dark chocolate, cigar box and a subtle loamy note all coming together beautifully. On the palate this is full-bodied with a gorgeous polished texture and remarkable concentration and depth. This continues to impress with layers of ripe dark fruits, spices and chocolate notes which burst on to the the long, supple finish. While this is nothing short of a complete success, today it seems to be the most reserved of all Tor's outstanding wines in 2014, however there is absolutely no doubt this will continue to evolve remarkably for many years to come. Only 50 cases made. (Best 2019-2036) - *January, 2017(JD)*

TOR KENWARD Cabernet Sauvignon, Tierra Roja Vineyard 2014

97

Another outstanding showing in this vintage from Tor Kenward is the Tierra Roja Cabernet Sauvignon. Tierra Roja is a small 4-acre vineyard situated in Oakville and possesses characteristics of large rocks and red soils, hence its name. The 2014 is a absolutely majestic wine, which opens with gorgeous perfumed aromas of freshly crushed blackberries and dark currants, along with spring floral, graphite, sweet spices, mineral and underlying notes of dark chocolate and anise. This continues to impress on the palate with its full-bodied, opulent texture and wonderful overall balance and depth. It continues to demonstrate incredible freshness and purity as it delivers layers of deeply concentrated dark fruits, which work their way into the long, multidimensional finish. Although exceedingly delicious right now, this will be at its best with some additional bottle age, and will continue to evolve gracefully in the cellar for many years to come. (Best 2018-2036) - *January, 2017 (JD)*

TOR KENWARD Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2014

95

The 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a sensational effort from Tor Kenward and winemaker Jeff Ames. The Cabernet Sauvignon was selected predominately from the Melanson Vineyard along with To Kalon, Tierra Roja, Cimarossa, Herb Lamb, and Vine Hill Ranch. This Cabernet impresses from the instant the cork is pulled, as it begins to open with simply gorgeous characteristics of ripe dark currants and fresh blackberries along with sweet spices, graphite, pencil shavings, spring floral and hints of anise, which all come together to form the seductive aromatics. On the palate this is beautifully structured with a gorgeous round, seamless texture backed by a core of ripe fruits. This continues to impress with its wonderful overall balance and focus as it expands gracefully on to the long, polished finish. Today, this is already showing extremely well, however there is also a long, promising future ahead for this outstanding wine. (Best 2017-2030) - *January, 2017 (JD)*