

# International WINE REPORT

## **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon 'Black Magic' 2015**

**99**

There are few words to describe the 2015 Black Magic other than utterly fascinating. This majestic wine is a blend of the absolute best barrels from the vintage, regardless of which vineyard the fruit is from. This captivating Cabernet Sauvignon instantly begins to seduce with its attractive aromatics of ripe cassis and dark cherries woven together with graphite, floral, sweet spices and touch of mocha all soaring from the glass. This becomes even more compelling on the palate, as this full-bodied, beautifully textured red demonstrates a masterful display of finesse and power which is rarely seen. The depth, concentration and balance is truly remarkable, as velvety layers of gorgeous ripe fruits continue to build on the palate before making a seamless transition on to the long, graceful finish. While this is already spectacular, it also possesses the potential to age exceptionally well for many years to come. (Best 2020-2040) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

## **TOR Proprietary Red, Oakville 2015**

**99**

The 2015 Oakville Proprietary Red from Tor Kenward is composed of 44% Cabernet Franc, 44% Petit Verdot, and 12% Cabernet Sauvignon which is absolutely stunning and looks to be even more impressive than last year's exceptional bottling. This utterly compelling wine instantly begins to dazzle as it opens to a seductive bouquet of ripe blackberries, dark currants, graphite, tobacco, violets and hints of earthy nuances all coming together beautifully in the glass. It continues to thoroughly impress on the palate with its remarkable structure and full-bodied, voluptuous texture, with a gorgeous sweet inner core of perfectly ripened black fruits which expand through the round, supple finish. This is a brilliant wine from Tor and winemaker Jeff Ames which demonstrates an outstanding combination of power and finesse. While this is simply fascinating now, it will surely evolve gracefully for many years. (Best 2019-2036) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

## **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon, Beckstoffer To Kalon 2015**

**98**

Sourced from the esteemed Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, this Cabernet Sauvignon is a total knockout. The aromatics are absolutely stunning, as the wine begins with seductive aromas of beautifully ripened dark currants and dark berries which are woven together with spices, graphite, mocha, fresh violets and a touch of earthy nuances all taking shape. It continues to impress on the palate with its depth and concentration, as it demonstrates simply gorgeous textural richness with an opulent mouthfeel and beautifully polished tannins, both profound and elegant. There is an incredible seamless quality, which continues on through the long, multidimensional finish. While this is nearly impossible to resist today, there is also a wonderful future ahead for this wine. (Best 2020-2036) - *January, 2018(JD)*

## **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon, Melanson Vineyard 2015**

**97**

Another absolutely magnificent showing from Tor in this vintage, the Melanson Vineyard Cabernet is clone 7 and 337, which is planted to loamy soils layered with volcanic rock, and sits at an average elevation of 1,200 feet on Pritchard Hill. This absolutely stunning wine opens to seductive aromas of ripe black cherries and dark currants woven together with graphite, mocha, exotic spices, sage and spring floral nuances all soaring from the glass. Full-bodied and opulent with a wonderful voluptuous texture giving way to a core of beautifully ripened dark fruits that expand seamlessly across the palate. This displays stunning purity, finesse and balance leading up to the long, spice-tinged finish. While the Melanson Cabernet is already simply sensational, it also has the potential to age remarkably well for many years to come. (Best 2019-2036) - *January, 2018(JD)*

### **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon, Tierra Roja 2015**

**97**

This Cabernet is sourced from the Tierra Roja Vineyard in East Oakville, and it is another fantastic showing from Tor in this vintage. The Cabernet stays a bit longer on its skins than Tor's mountain Cabernets, it also spends about 18-20 months in new Taransaud barrels before being bottled unfinned and unfiltered. The result is a simply sensational Cabernet which opens to striking aromatics of ripe blackberries and dark currants woven together with lovely floral nuances. Full-bodied and opulent, this impresses on the palate with remarkable depth and concentration as well as its gorgeous inner sweetness, and round, seamless texture making it impossible to resist. Beautifully ripened flavors of crème de cassis and dark fruits merge with chocolate which expand beautifully through the long finish. (Best 2019-2036) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

### **TOR Petite Sirah, Palisades Vineyard 'Old Vine' 2015**

**95**

The 2015 Palisades Vineyard Petite Sirah is a complete knockout from Tor. This old vine Petite displays an impressive opaque, ink-like color that is followed by profound aromatics of ripe blueberries, black cherries and a touch of roasted plum, which are joined by sweet spices, lavender, creosote and tobacco nuances all taking shape in this seductive red. On the palate this is full-bodied, voluptuous and layered, with a gorgeous round, supple texture that utterly impresses as it expands through the long mouth coating finish. While already simply decadent, readers should also expect this to thrive in the cellar. (Best 2018-2030) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

### **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon, Herb Lamb Vineyard 2015**

**94**

The 2015 Herb Lamb Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is a spectacular showing and was sourced from the same block which Ann Colgin had used for fifteen years. The wine speaks for itself, as it opens to wonderful aromatics of red currants, cassis and hints of blueberries along with pencil shavings, sweet spices, chocolate and a slight savory character which are all captivating in the glass. On the palate this is beautifully structured, with a gorgeous round, polished texture and excellent concentration, as flavors of red and blue fruits combine with bittersweet chocolate to leave a lasting impression. While this offers plenty of early appeal, readers should try and show patience, and allow this at least a few years of bottle age to reach its full potential. Nine barrels made. (Best 2020-2033) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

### **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon 'Oakville Hillside' 2015**

**94**

The 2015 Oakville Hillside Cabernet Sauvignon is a beautifully made wine from Tor Kenward and Jeff Ames. This instantly opens with attractive aromas of red currants, cassis, graphite, cedar and sweet spices all taking shape. On the palate this is beautifully balanced and poised, structured with a gorgeous velvety, round texture that expands seamlessly into the finish, where flavors of crème de cassis, dark chocolate and graphite linger effortlessly. While this is already drinking remarkably well, expect it to age gracefully and become even more appealing in years to come. (Best 2019-2032) - *January, 2018 (JD)*

### **TOR Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2015**

**94**

The 2015 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented as individual wines and then blended back after many trials. In this vintage the Cabernet was sourced mainly from the Cimarossa vineyard along with a few small other picks. As this begins to open it releases aromatics of black cherries and cassis woven together with mocha, sweet spices, graphite and anise all taking shape. On the palate this is full-bodied with a gorgeous soft, plush texture making it extremely accessible early. The finish is long and voluptuous with dark fruits and mocha leaving a lasting impression. While this is delightful now, expect this to continue to drink well over the next decade and even beyond. (Best 2019-2030) - *January, 2018 (JD)*