

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

BECKSTOFFER TO KALON VINEYARD, BFD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2015

VINEYARD Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive world-wide accolades, particularly in the last decade. The vineyard is on a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville appellation. Top soils are Bale loam/Bale clay loam, and running through the middle and west side of the vineyard are remnants of old stream beds riddled with rock. For the last decade, we have worked with four blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and two blocks of Cabernet Franc. Each vintage tells a different story, and the best wines can be single blocks, or blends of blocks. This 25 case bottling comes from the B, F, and D blocks, hence its name.

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WINEMAKING This micro lot was made up of a blend of the three blocks that we use for Cabernet within the To Kalon vineyard. The B and D blocks were fermented together while the F block was kept apart from anything else. After blending, this was put into a single new Darnajou barrel where it stayed until bottling, 19 months later.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2015 BFD To Kalon vineyard is a surprise. Tasting all the components that went into it I would have expected it to be very plush, but this wine has more structure than any of the wines that make it up. This is all black fruit and density but with a deep core of fruit hidden underneath.

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VINTAGE Over my decades as a Napa vintner I have gained great respect for "drought years." They are yin and yang years, where a farmer has to pay very close attention to each vine. In years like 2015, every vine was pushed to the limit – its access to water, its survival. The survivors make up small crops - that is the "yin." The "yang" is - the quality can be off the charts.

In 2015, we suffered up to 45% losses in several blocks. It was an early start, but cool weather during flowering in May contributed to a less than normal fruit set. The berries that did set were generally much smaller than usual. Once the set was complete, we had warm to very warm conditions up to and through harvest. There was no rush to judgement on when to pick, we had plenty of space at the winery for the short crop, and all the fruit was in before the winter storms started to line up off the coast. Initially, I did not pass judgement on this vintage; but now having tasted all the wines in bottle – it is a great one in all respects.

CASES PRODUCED: 25

