

# TOR

NAPA VALLEY

## NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2015

**VINEYARD** We only make a “Napa Valley” bottling when we feel that the sum of the parts are equally as brilliant as any one of our single vineyard wines. To get to that end, we taste and work with all our vineyards – To Kalon, Melanson, Tierra Roja, Cimarossa, Herb Lamb, and Vine Hill Ranch – to find the right blend. In 2015 it is predominantly Cimarossa Vineyard and smaller percentages of the others.

**WINEMAKING** The 2015 Napa Cabernet Sauvignon was fermented as individual wines and then blended back after many blending trials. The Cimarossa vineyard is the base wine this year along with a few small other picks. The other components were put down to about 100% new wood that was a mix of Darnajou and Taransaud while the Cimarossa got its typical 100% new Darnajou barrels. The goal on this wine is not to make the biggest, most massive wine of the vintage, but instead to blend a complete and complex wine that shows both the vintage and the best qualities of each vineyard.

**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** The 2015 Napa Cabernet is a denser and perhaps a more complex wine than the 2014 due largely to the strength of the vintage. The palate is very full weight with a fantastic lift and intensity to the aromatics. This vintage is more slanted to the black fruit spectrum with less of the red fruits that were in the 2014. This is a fantastic introduction to both the 2015 vintage and TOR Cabernets.

**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: 350

