

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

TIERRA ROJA VINEYARD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2016

VINEYARD Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail, directly look forward and up. This is 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.

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WINEMAKING In 2016, the Tierra Roja continues an amazing string of vintages from this unique site. Like all years, this was from the lower block of Tierra Roja and aged in new Taransaud barrels. However, in 2016, the fermentation lasted an additional 10 days over what is 'normal' for us from Tierra Roja. The additional skin time and the characteristics of this great vintage resulted in a slightly richer/sweeter profile than in past years. An extraordinary vintage for this small four-acre vineyard.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2016 Tierra Roja Cabernet is likely the best that we ever made, with a pronounced additional level of sweetness and depth. This is always a wine about balance over power. This vintage continues the pattern with impeccable balance and mid-core of fruit that stands out due to the red-rocky, hillside planting.

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VINTAGE To put it simply – this was one of our great modern vintages in the Napa Valley. It almost had a Bordeaux feeling to it – moderate rainfall for all but three months before the real rains arrived in October. By then, everything was in the barn. No significant heat spikes, which made for a very long even growing season. The only complaint I had with all our vineyard sites was, I wish I had harvested more grapes. Cluster size and weights were down, and we were 20% off of average when we finished picking. It was one of those years, you wish you just had more grapes. Spectacular quality, both reds and whites. The wines have deep colors, structure, concentration, and depth of flavor.

CASES PRODUCED: 400

RETAIL BOTTLE PRICE: \$155

