

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

OAKVILLE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2019

VINEYARD Our TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville is sourced from Tierra Roja and Skellenger Vineyards. 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. Below Tierra Roja on the west side of the Trail is Skellenger with a long history of excellent Oakville wines.

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WINEMAKING This is a barrel selection from both vineyards. As for all of our Cabernet Sauvignons, the individual lots were fermented on skins between two and three weeks in small tanks, matured for twenty months in new Taransaud and Darnajou barrels, then bottled without fining or filtration.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES This vintage shows the classic Oakville cabernet notes of cassis, wet earth and black cherry. Upon tasting you are struck with the very rich/dense and long palate that shows the lift and brightness that Oakville brings to cabernet. There is bittersweet chocolate, mint, tobacco and espresso as the wine tails off to a long and silky finish.

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VINTAGE After a good wet spring, the 2019 growing season fell into its typical dry and sunny summer, unmarked by any extremes. Consistent temps helped to preserve freshness and finesse in the fruit with abundant hang time teasing out great color, structure and soft tannins. The fruit set was lighter than 2018, clusters tight and concentrated. 2019 were slow to come around in barrel, but once in bottle showed very precocious, more so than 2018. This is a vintage that is going to make a lot of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon lovers very happy. An outstanding Napa Valley vintage with very accessible wines that will age well.

96 points – Joe D' Angelo, *International Wine Report*

95 points – James Suckling

