

# TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

## *PALISADES VINEYARD*

### **GRENACHE**

**2015**

**VINEYARD** In its own valley, there is a vineyard east of Calistoga with a whole lot of history going back pre-prohibition. Rumors of moonshining during prohibition are in the record books, and the surviving old vines of Petite Sirah are infamous. Palisades Vineyard (formerly Carver Sutro) lies in its very own valley, completely isolated from the rest of Napa Valley. The grapes obviously like it there for they wouldn't have survived as long as they have. Its new owners are fanatical (in all the right ways) about the farming of this historic site. There is only one block of Grenache in this vineyard. This wine is from that block.

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**WINEMAKING** The 2015 Grenache is the second release from TOR from the Palisades Vineyard in Calistoga. Like previous Grenache that we have made this was made from all de-stemmed fruit so no whole cluster inclusion. Also like previous vintages there is no new oak on this year's wine (we have never liked the flavor of new oak on Grenache). Even though the winemaking was exactly the same as previous years this is by far the most intense and rich Grenache we have ever released. There is an extra level of intensity and concentration that the extremely shallow and poor soils at the Palisades Vineyard have given the wine. Though clearly identifiable as a Grenache from the ruby red color, spices and earth this is the most dense and age worthy Grenache yet released from TOR.

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**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** There is no mistaking the 2015 Grenache as anything other than what it is. The color is a classic dark ruby red. On the nose there are tons of candied, ripe red fruits along with damp earth, bright spices and roasted meats. On the palate you will find more red fruits, licorice and dark fruit liqueur. This is very simply the best Grenache we have yet released.

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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: 175

RETAIL BOTTLE PRICE: \$45

