



96+

2017 TOR Proprietary Red Black Magic

TOR's barrel selection flagship, the "Magic" blend this year is 32% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Petit Verdot and 48% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Proprietary Red Black Magic come rolling out of the glass with seductive blackberry pie, creme de cassis and baked plums notes plus suggestions of baking spices, marmite toast, mocha and licorice with just a hint of bouquet garni. Medium to full-bodied, the bright, vibrant palate has a firm frame of ripe grainy tannins and bold freshness, supporting the taut, tightly wound black fruits, finishing on a lingering mineral note. 125 cases were made.

- Lisa Perrotti-Brown (October, 2019)

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Oakville

This is the first time TOR has made a barrel selection from their Oakville vineyards, predominantly Tierra Roja in Oakville East. It is composed of barrels selected to reveal the "red-fruited, softer, juicier side of the Tierra Roja vineyard". Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon comes sashaying out of the glass with open-knit notes of warm red and black plums, kirsch and cassis with wafts of bay leaves, tar, underbrush and tilled soil. Medium-bodied, the palate has bold freshness and a firm frame of chewy tannins with a core of evocative, crunchy red and black fruits, finishing long and earthy. 350 cases were made.

- Lisa Perrotti-Brown (October, 2019)

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard

Cimarossa means 'red summit' in Italian, which effectively describes this Howell Mountain, hillside vineyard. The elevation is 2,100 feet, and the soils are predominately red volcanic rock and dust. Deep garnet-purple in color, the nose for the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard displays understated notions of tobacco leaf, stewed black tea, cedar and pencil lead with a core of crushed blackberries and black currants plus a lively lift from dried herbs and rose hips. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers great tension, with a provocative chewiness and plenty of juicy fruit, finishing with a lively herbal lift. 131 cases were made.

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon

This comes from B, D and F blocks in Beckstoffer To Kalon, all of which sit atop ancient riverbeds. It was harvested on Friday October 6th, two days before the start of the Atlas Peak fire. Yields at To Kalon are strictly managed by the team at TOR to one cluster per shoot. The wine was matured in 100% Darnajou small French oak barrels for twenty months and bottled without fining or filtration. Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Beckstoffer To Kalon simply sings of violets, red roses and licorice over a beautiful core of warm cassis, blueberry pie and plum preserves plus nuances of Morello cherries, menthol, chocolate box and cedar. Medium to full bodied, the palate is laden with juicy black fruits and compelling tension, framed by super-firm yet wonderfully ripe, velvety tannins and finishing long and perfumed. This wine is a true triumph in a challenging...

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2017 TOR Oakville Proprietary Red

This Proprietary red is a blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Cabernet Franc and 25% Petit Verdot. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot from Vine Hill Ranch were co-fermented. Then this co-ferment was blended with the Cabernet Franc early in the season. Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Oakville Proprietary Red Wine comes strutting out of the glass with notions of baked plums, blackcurrant pastilles and wild blueberries plus hints of iron ore, tilled soil, bay leaves and tree bark with a touch of Sichuan pepper. Medium-bodied, the palate is elegant, refreshing and crunchy, with tons of energy and a lovely chewy edge coming through on the finish. 125 cases were made.

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Melanson Vineyard

Greg Melanson's vineyard on Pritchard Hill is very steep, with rows running up and down the hill directly across from Colgin Winery. Beyond Colgin, its rocky face looks down at Napa Valley's floor. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Melanson Vineyard offers a super-intense nose of warm cassis, blackberry pie, fresh blueberries and mulberries with touches of Ceylon tea, rose hips, asphalt and wild sage. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a solid line of firm, ripe, grainy tannins and seamless freshness supporting the vibrant, fresh black and blue fruits, finishing long and earthy. 303 cases were made.

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Vine Hill Ranch

This comes from the most gravelly block in Vine Hill Ranch, Block 7, planted to twenty-year-old vines. The wine sees "classic TOR winemaking" - about three weeks on skins during and post-fermentation. It was matured in a mix of Taransaud and Darnajou small French oak barrels for twenty months, then bottled without fining or filtration. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Vine Hill Ranch comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant black cherries, mulberries and boysenberries notes plus suggestions of pencil shavings, cigar box and cardamom. Medium to full bodied, the palate has an exhilarating, fantastically fine-grained texture, with seamless freshness and bags of black fruit flavors, finishing with a lively herbal lift. 202 cases were made.

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2017 TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Tierra Roja Vineyard

In 2017, for the first time, the Cabernet Sauvignon from Tierra Roja Vineyard was left on skins after the primary fermentation, "since it just kept getting better and better", according to Tor Kenward. It was aged in 100% new Taransaud barrels. Deep garnet purple in color, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon, Tierra Roja Vineyard gives up pronounced cassis, red currant jelly, raspberry leaves and dusty earth scents with nuances of unsmoked cigars, wild thyme and lavender. Medium-bodied, the palate has a super-firm backbone of chewy tannins and great freshness with taut, tightly wound fruit, finishing on a lingering savory note. 250 cases were made.

- Lisa Perrotti-Brown (October, 2019)

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