

TOR

NAPA VALLEY

BLACK MAGIC 2019

TOR'S NOTE Real magic cannot be explained or reasoned. It is astonishing and challenges our imagination. It is in this wine. Here is the essence of Cabernet Sauvignon co-fermented with Petit Verdot, blended with perhaps Napa's best Cabernet franc making it as black as a moonless Napa Valley night. It will not be made every year, only those years when we feel a special presence. For Black Magic you need not, should not, know more.

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WINEMAKING Our greatest pleasure is to walk through the cellars and taste barrel by barrel. It's rare, but sometimes one barrel will stop us in our tracks. In all the barrel lots made from our legendary sites, seldom more than three or four accomplish this in any given year. These distinct barrels, of course, all hail from Napa Valley's greatest vineyards. There is no rhyme or reason why these singular barrels come together to defy the laws of nature. It's a phenomenon that can't be fully explained. True magic.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES Once again the name of the wine describes the wine. This is all dark fruit and density. This year's Black Magic shows tremendous depth and tannins that are almost totally buried in pure macerated black fruits, black berries, Turkish coffee, unsmoked tobacco, tar and black licorice. This was again blended from numerous barrel trials, tastings and blendings with no wine being off limits with the singular goal of making the best wine in Napa. Unfortunately this year resulted in fewer cases but at least the equal of the 2018 version. This is a wine to have with just your best of friends or to put away for your children.

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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.

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

99 points – James Suckling

