

# TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

## TIERRA ROJA VINEYARD

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2019

**VINEYARD** Drive the Oakville Cross Road to the Silverado Trail, then directly look forward and up. This is Tierra Roja, a four-acre jewel of a hillside vineyard. Great neighbors – Backus, Screaming Eagle, Maya and Rudd. Dotted with big rocks, the soil is definitely roja (very red). You might expect the wines to be massive, but they are perfumed, dark and complex, in the style of Screaming Eagle. Linda Neal has been tending this jewel of a vineyard since 1987. Today Neal sells her fruit to no other winery but ours. It was a long wait until we finally released our first TOR Tierra Roja Cabernet in 2010.

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**WINEMAKING** The 2019 Tierra Roja is the first time ever that the finished wine is a complete blend of the upper terraces and the lower 'flats' section. After numerous blending sessions the best wine was a complete blend of both blocks. This was aged in its normal Taransaud dominant selection with about 80% of the barrels being new and the rest 1 use barrels from the 2017 vintage. Once again this was bottled unfinned and unfiltered so as to express the vineyard as clearly as possible.

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**WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES** The 2019 Tierra Roja immediately shows the more classic red fruit profile that you expect from these intense/iron rich soils. This shows a very floral side to the aromatics with roses/rosemary/lavender and sage. The palate is firm but with sweet tannins and a bit of wet earth, cloves and cinnamon stick. Tierra Roja tends to be fairly forward in its youth but always surprises with just how long and well it can go in the cellar and I think this year is no exception.

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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.

