

TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

VINE HILL RANCH CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2019

VINEYARD This vineyard is part of Tor's 40-year history in the Napa Valley. He knew its early stewards, Bob and Alex Phillips, who bought the vineyard in 1959 and made it one of Napa Valley's stars in the 80's and 90's. The vineyard was first planted in 1884 and is a perfect site for Bordeaux varietals. We now work with their son, Bruce Phillips, in Block 7, where we have an acre of old vine Cabernet Sauvignon and 3D, just beneath the Bond Vecina block, with just over an acre of Cabernet Sauvignon and just under an acre of Petit Verdot. Always curious, we love to co-ferment the Cabernet and Petit Verdot from this great site. In some years, "Black Magic" has been shaped in this vineyard.

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WINEMAKING Block 7 is the gravelliest block in Vine Hill Ranch, with mature vines planted around twenty years ago, giving a wine of singular structure, depth and definition. Classic TOR Winemaking, this wine is an extraordinary display of Napa Valley Cabernet. Matured in a mix of Taransaud and Darnajou small French oak barrels for twenty months, then bottled without fining or filtration.

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WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2019 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet is again one of the best examples of terroir. Every time I try it it just simply tastes like Vine Hill and nothing else. This years shows then classic Vine Hill dried herbs and roasted red meats with sage, basil and fennel. This is slightly more black fruited on the palate than most 2019 Cabernets which were more red fruits. The amazing texture and balance continues to resonate through the long 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.

