

T O R

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon, 2007

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 216 cases
Release Date: October 2009

Vintage

The year began with some of the coldest temperatures on record, while the vines were safely in dormancy. Winter transitioned into spring earlier than usual, with budding, bloom and set all ahead of schedule. For the most part, it was a long cool growing season with few heat spikes. Labor Day brought back the heat, which was short lived, then back to cool, creating ideal harvest conditions into late October. All our Cabernet vineyards had extraordinary hang time contributing to their completeness and complexity.

Vineyard

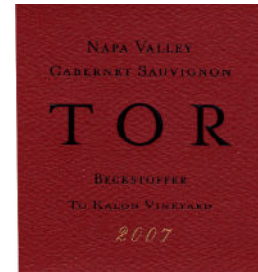
If Napa Valley has a tenderloin, that sweet spot that produced its richest most fabled wine, it is arguably the To Kalon Vineyard. For decades, extraordinary, award winning wines are made from this unique terroir. Located just south of the Mondavi winery, extending west of highway 29 into the western foothills. The slope is slight, the soils diverse, but well drained. Vineyard owner Andy Beckstoffer, a name synonymous with many of the Napa Valley's most revered vineyards, has planted his To Kalon blocks to many historic California clones. Our block in Beckstoffer To Kalon is all Clone 6, the shyest bearing clone of all planted in this historic vineyard. No contest.

Winemaking

During the long growing season of 2007, we thinned all Cabernet blocks several times to bring crop into balance with the vine growth. This extra labor paid off with uniformly ripe grapes at harvest. All the Cabernets had excellent uniformity in grape quality; seeds almost tasting like walnuts, no greenness. After morning crushing, the must was presoaked till the indigenous yeast began to slowly metabolize grape sugar, signaling a beginning of fermentation. For the To Kalon, soaks and fermentation lasted 28 days; the juice was then racked off directly into small Taransaud and Damey French oak barrels. After 22 months in small oak, the wine went to bottle unfiltered, unfined. Net - net, minimal handling or intervention.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

Yet again, To-Kalon is unique among the wine. There is something about the profile of this wine that makes it easy to pick out. The nose shows raspberry, blackberry, smoked meats and a minty quality that is unique to To-Kalon. On the palate it is very rich yet completely balanced. No one quality sticks out. The tannin, acid and wood behave as a single unit allowing the wonderful classic graphite, licorice and herbs profile to shine. Balance is the hallmark of this wine. This is a wine that will drink well young and will with any luck drink well its entire life, never shutting down.



"...offers up abundant aromas of *crème de cassis*, licorice, cedar, spice box and a whiff of unsmoked, high class cigar tobacco. With a full-bodied palate as well as a beautiful texture, richness, moderately high tannins, and admirable purity and length, this 2007 will hit its prime in 4-5 years, and should last for 25+."

Rated (94) by
Robert Parker, Jr.
"The Wine Advocate"