

T O R

TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon, Old B, 2009

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Production: 200 cases
Release date: September 2011

Vintage

2009 growing season was definitely one of the most uniform in recent history. No spring frosts, long and cool, except for one heat spike in June - I think one of the best for our blocks in Oakville's Beckstoffer To Kalon and on Howell Mountain, our Cimarossa vineyard. The wines from these terroirs have developed beautifully in barrel. All the grapes from these sites were picked under ideal conditions at optimum ripeness before the strange warm storm hit the North Coast on Oct 15th. One of our favorite To Kalon vintages to date.

Vineyards

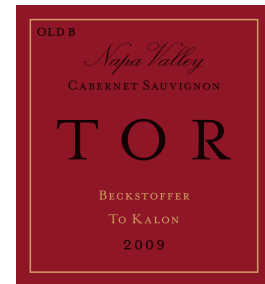
Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive worldwide accolades for the wines, particularly in the last decade. The vineyard is on a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville appellation. Soils are Bale loam/Bale clay loam, and are impeccably farmed by Andy Beckstoffer's team. We have a by-acre contract so we can determine canopy, crop load and picking dates - but rely on the Beckstoffer viticulturists for insight into this unique vineyard to guide our decisions. 2009 was an exceptional vintage for this vineyard, and our blocks. Our one acre "Old B" is from one of the older plantings in the vineyard.

Winemaking

The fundamentals are to have the vineyard stand above and beyond any flavors winemaking brings to the equation. We do berry sort, pick early morning, and ferment at temperatures that preserve varietal indemnity, never over aerate, and never filter or fine. We like to leave everything in, not remove flavors. Our favorite French coopers are Darnajou and Tarasaund for our Cabernet Sauvignons from To Kalon. We believe great winemaking is to know what not to do, which does take experience.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

The nose on the '09 Old B is all black fruits/blackberries/black raspberries and meat with a bit of brown sugar bacon. On the palate this wine is superbly balanced. There is nothing that is even a little out of place. The first impression is of tremendous sweet fruit but with sufficient tannin and extract to balance it out. The finish on this is very long and super smooth with more of the black fruits and just a touch of sweet fruit wood smoke. This is not a wine to blow you off the table, this is a wine to sip and savor over a long meal.



"...wraps around the palate with layers of dark red fruit, smoke, tar, licorice and spices. This is a gorgeous and rather open, perfumed wine from To Kalon that convinces for its overall balance and finesse. Sweet, floral notes reappear on the finish."

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Robert Parker's
The Wine Advocate
December 2011