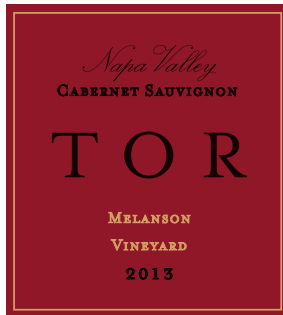


# T O R



## TOR Cabernet Sauvignon Melanson Vineyard, 2013

Blend: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Production: 200 cases  
Release Date: January 2016

### **Vintage**

It started with a warm, early, and dry spring. This is always an advantage, for it gets everything starting uniformly on the right path. The set was smaller than 2012. At the end of June we saw a few days of our only 100 degree weather for the year, then back to ideal growing conditions until we wanted to pick. Some white varietals started to come in the first part of August, making it one of the earliest harvests in recent history. Cabernet Sauvignon was the latest. In September the weather began its fall cooling cycle, and a few light showers slowed the growing pattern till October when we picked most of our Cabernet Family grapes. A long, beautiful growing season for Cabernet Sauvignon.

### **Vineyards**

Pritchard Hill is one of Napa Valley's great sites for big boned, dense, very complex Cabernet Sauvignons. We think this is one of Pritchard Hill's top vineyards. Greg Melanson's vineyard is very steep with rows running up and down the hill directly across from Colgin Winery and Estate vineyard. Beyond Colgin its rocky face looks down at Napa Valley's floor. Like many of the best sites on Pritchard Hill, its higher elevation and afternoon breezes coming from the Pacific cools the vineyard in the warm afternoons. Ideal real estate for world class Cabernet.

### **Winemaking**

The 2013 Melanson Vineyard Cabernet is our first from this vineyard. This is all from the older blocks of Clone 337 and was fermented in a single closed top tank. This spent a few extra days on its skins for a total of around 21 days as opposed to our normal 14-16 days. On these extra days it received a 'cap wetter' pump-over of a few minutes every other day. The tannins in the wine continued to get sweeter and sweeter after primary fermentation was done so we left it on its skins for the additional time. This was put down to a mix of new Darnajou and Taransaud barrels.

### **Winemaker's Tasting Notes**

It is a very rare thing that the first wine that you make from a vineyard has everything that you could ever want in a wine. This is one of those rare wines. The 2013 Melanson Vineyard shows very clearly why everyone in Napa scrambles to get fruit from Pritchard Hill. This beauty has power allied with depth, fruit allied with structure and grace allied with intensity. This is a mix of bright red fruits and intense black fruits, both playing off of each other perfectly. It is just one of those special wines you don't come across very often.