

# TOR

N A P A V A L L E Y

VINE HILL RANCH  
CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
2018

**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 2018 Vine Hill Ranch Cabernet is as it has always been a pure expression of Vine Hill Ranch. This bottling to be is a fantastic example of the old phrase 'iron fist in a velvet glove'. This is so incredibly drinkable now but will age for years to come. The silky and seamless nature of this Cabernet hides the awesome depth and inherent structure that this has. The 2018 Vine Hill Ranch cabernet is a bit of an homage to the Cabernets of years past with its loamy/earthy profile but still has all the fruit and density that you could ever want.

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**VINTAGE** 2018 was a very long and overall cool vintage which aided its longevity and hang time. The grape set was under ideal conditions in the Spring, and the clusters on average were larger than normal, full, and picture perfect. Hollywood clusters, show offs; a beautiful and large set. We thinned (dropped fruit) more radically than we did in 2017 and 2016, one cluster per shoot in To Kalon. Still, by harvest it was on average a good 10 to 15% more than we had initially anticipated. Long, long hang time, picture perfect clusters, no real heat spikes, and an even and long picking season.

96-99 points — *Jeb Dunnuck*

CASES PRODUCED: 300

RETAIL BOTTLE PRICE: \$225

