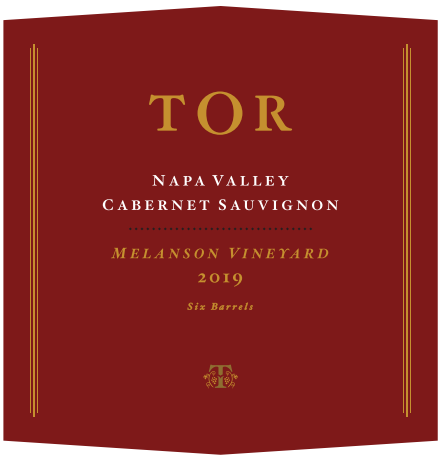
TOR

NAPA VALLEY

MELANSON VINEYARD
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
2019

VINEYARD We put Pritchard Hill in parentheses because it is not an official appellation, but many great wines claim and champion the name. It's neighbor on this legendary hill is Colgin. Greg Melanson's vineyard is very steep with rows running up and down the hill. Its rocky face looks down at Napa Valley's floor. Higher elevation and afternoon breezes coming from the Pacific cool the vineyard in the warm afternoons. Ideal real estate for world class Cabernet. The mountain site is rugged, its Sobrante loam soil studded with volcanic rock. At an average elevation of 1,200 feet, the vineyard sits above the fog line and benefits from maximum sun exposure all day.



WINEMAKING Melanson is a plusher, richer softer expression of a mountain Napa Valley Cabernet than our others. A very steep and rocky hillside vineyard this vintage proves to show minerality and intense dark fruits. We selected 100% Taransaud barrels for Melanson. The drinking window for this wine this wine will be very long.

WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES The 2019 Melanson Cabernet is certainly one of the most plush/round Melasnon's we have made since we first started from here in 2013. There is the typical tannin structure off of Pritchard Hill but this year the perception of the tannin is more supple and smooth. There is roast beef, tobacco, menthol, dried herbs, vineyard dust and currants. As approachable as this is right now I would expect a comfortable 10-15 years of graceful development.

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.

98 points – James Suckling

97 points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous

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