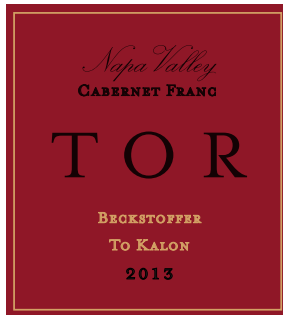


T O R



TOR Cabernet Franc

Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, 2013

Blend: 97% Cabernet Franc; 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Production: 125 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

Beckstoffer To Kalon continues to receive worldwide accolades, particularly in the last decade. The vineyard is on a gentle slope on the western foothills of the Oakville appellation. Topsoils are Bale loam/Bale clay loam, and running through the middle and west side of the vineyard are remnants of old stream beds riddled with rock. For the last decade we have worked with six blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and two blocks of Cabernet Franc. Each vintage tells a different story, and the best wines can be single blocks, or blends of blocks. Ever since we have worked with the very few rows of Cabernet Franc in To Kalon, we have hoped that the best “Red” wine would someday be a pure Cabernet Franc, a wine that would be better on its own than with a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon. 2013 made that happen. With only 3% Cabernet Sauvignon to add another base note, it is a complete song.

Winemaking

The 2013 To Kalon Cabernet Franc was one of the easiest ferments that we had. As soon as it was in tank and started fermenting, we knew we needed to keep some to bottle by itself. This also got our normal pump-over program. We were able to add in a third pump-over on a few days since we had no concerns about over-extracting the fruit, as its tannins were so soft and silky. We ended up putting this down to almost all new Darnajou wood.

Winemaker's Tasting Notes

Yes, you are seeing that right – To Kalon Cabernet Franc. 2013 marks the dawn of our Cabernet Franc from the To Kalon Vineyard. There will never be much since we don't get much, but what there is will always be pure and memorable Franc. The 2013 shows more of the red fruit than black fruit and that beautiful earthy mineral profile that Cabernet Franc is known for. This has super silky sweet tannins with medium, full weight. With its red fruit, bay leaf, truffles and licorice - this is much more of a true Cabernet Franc than one that would ever be confused for Cabernet, and it is all the better for it.