



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard and Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard

Realm Cellars

2012 Realm The Tempest Napa Valley Red Wine

96 Points

The Wine Advocate - October 2014

The 2012 Proprietary Red Blend The Tempest (55% Merlot from the Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard, 22% Cabernet Franc from the Kenefick Vineyard, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon from Farella Vineyard and 5% Petit Verdot from the Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard) possesses a complex bouquet of licorice, barbecue smoke, incense, blueberries and black cherries infused with mocha and a whiff of freshly brewed coffee. With a beautiful texture, superb intensity, and an opulent, full-bodied style, it is a dramatic and ostentatious 2012 to drink over the next decade or more

Realm Cellars boasts an impressive team of highly motivated men and women led by Juan Mercado and winemaker Benoit Touquette. The consulting winemaker is Michel Rolland. Realm accesses some outstanding vineyard sources, particularly those owned by the omnipresent, bigger-than-life force of Napa Valley, Andy Beckstoffer. Fate was not kind to Realm in the beginning with their first vintage, 2003, completely destroyed by a fire in a Vallejo warehouse where it was being stored. But Juan Mercado, a former medic in the first Gulf war, and someone who learned his trade from the likes of Thomas Rivers Brown, Michel Rolland, John Kongsgaard and Les Behrens, stuck with it, and is now producing incredible wines. These 2012s represent the finest efforts Realm has produced to date. The heart of the Realm philosophy is to access some of Napa Valley's finest vineyards and put together either single-vineyard bottlings or creative proprietary blends. All of these 2012s were outrageously delicious, and I can't recommend them highly enough-*RP*