



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

Tor Kenward

2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard – Oakville (not yet released)

93-96 Points

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The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignons reveal their individual terroirs, with the Oakville cuvee, a pure black currant liqueur intermixed with licorice, smoke, and graphite. In contrast to the 2006s, which are great successes from Tor Kenward, the 2007s possess even sweeter tannins and nearly unnoticeable levels of acidity, alcohol, and wood. The remarkably pure, deep, concentrated fruit character of all three wines (a hallmark of this extraordinary vintage) covers everything up at this point. All of these wines should turn out to be brilliant, and should achieve the same level of success as Kenward's 2006 Cabernet Sauvignons.

(Not yet released)

Good things happen to good people, and Tor Kenward is not only one of the leaders in the wine business (he's a longtime executive at Beringer), but he is also a true wine connoisseur,

humanitarian, and a burgeoning high quality wine producer. His concentration on Burgundian-styled, single vineyard Chardonnays, or single clones, some impressive Syrahs under the Tor Rock label, and some fabulous Cabernet Sauvignon under the Tor label, has gotten him off to a rocket ship-like launch. Production remains under 3,000 cases (and it is not likely to increase), but this winery is well-worth following as the wines are hand-crafted and bursting with personality. Tor Kenward was a Rhone wine enthusiast long before those wines became fashionable. In an attempt to emulate some of the top-notch French Rhones, he has sought out cool vineyard sites in the Bennett Valley and southern Napa. Tor Kenward and his winemaker, Jeff Ames, are equally attuned to Cabernet Sauvignon. They produce three cuvees, including a brilliant effort from Yountville's Mast Vineyard, a more mineral-dominated, tannic wine from the Cimarossa Vineyard on Howell Mountain, and an offering from one of the classic sites for Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville's Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard.