



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

Tor Kenward Family Wines

2013 Cabernet Franc Beckstoffer To Kalon

89 Points

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Tor even produced a 2013 Cabernet Franc Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard, which is a blend of 97% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine is a bit lighter, and shows floral notes along with some cedar wood, tobacco leaf, and a slight herbaceousness. It's lighter than I would have suspected, but spicy, and it may put on weight as it ages, as Cabernet Franc has a tendency to do. (At least, Europe versions tend to.) This is an excellent wine, but below the quality of most of Tor's wines.

Tor Kenward has put together an impressive portfolio of wines, slowly increasing the number of single-vineyard offerings. His stuff is exciting, which is not all that surprising, given his long-time experience working at Beringer as well as his rich wine-tasting experience over multiple decades.

The 2013 Chardonnays are absolutely brilliant. Almost all of them are made from heritage California clones such as Old Wente (known for its tiny berries and small yields). The 2014 Chardonnays had just been bottled, but they also showed well, given that they are slightly tighter and more reserved because of the recent transfer from wood to glass.

The Rock wines are the Rhône varietals in the Tor Kenward portfolio.

The 2013 Tor Cabernet Sauvignons are the best he has released to date. I thought he hit home runs with many of his 2012s, but he has exceeded those efforts with his 2013 grouping. 2014 continues the string of amazing vintages Napa had. Yields were lower than in 2012 and 2013, and the wines don't seem to have quite the drama and flamboyance of 2012 or the profound depth, structure and upside of the 2013s, but they are still beautiful wines, and as I have said so many times in this report, their biggest sin is to have followed two very great -*RP*