



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

Tor Kenward Family Wines

2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon

96 Points

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The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon, of course, comes from that great first-growth vineyard, and what's not to like, as everyone seems to nail a classic Cabernet from this large holding on the valley floor in Oakville. Deep purple, with notes of creosote, charcoal, blueberry and blackcurrant fruit as well as some licorice and background oak, this wine has great intensity, a magnificent mouthfeel and texture, and a long, long finish.

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*