



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

Tor Family Vineyards

2012 Tor Kenward Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

95-98 Points

Wine Advocate - October 2013

An utterly profound wine, the 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard is a dead-ringer for a first-growth Pauillac. Notes of licorice, graphite, crème de cassis, melon and spring flowers emerge from this ripe, long, full-bodied 2012. Bursting with potential, it is much more open and forward than most To Kalon wines tend to be at this stage of development, it has everything one could want in a classic Napa Cabernet.

Tor Kenward, the long-time PR rep for the Beringer empire, has his own project for a number of years and he continues to build an impressive portfolio of fascinating wines that reflect his love of Napa Valley and his own personal preference for complex wines. Incidentally, he has one of the great wine collections of Napa and he is one of those true connoisseurs who is happy to share his best bottles. While production levels for the wines in this portfolio are relatively small, all of them are top-notch, interesting efforts. Tasting through three vintages of Tor's Cabernet Sauvignons left me with the impression that this winery continues to go from strength to strength. Despite the issues of valley floor vineyards, Tor has done well in 2011. He told me that the rot that afflicted many valley floor vineyards was very site specific, and the only way to ensure clean, pure wines was low yields, open canopies, culling out affected bunches or berries, and Draconian-like sorting procedures. It appears he has done all of that

given the success of his 2011s, which, with the exception of the Cimarossa, are low elevation vineyards. I also tasted five barrel samples from 2012, a large, easy vintage with no problems of any serious consequence.