



Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

Tor Family Vineyards

2012 Tor Kenward Family Vineyards Proprietary Red Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard

94-97 Points

Wine Advocate - October 2013

An equal part blend of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2012 Proprietary Red Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard should turn out to be spectacular. Beautiful aromas of blueberries, black raspberries, bouquet garni, licorice and truffles soar from the glass of this inky purple-colored wine. Full-bodied as well as ethereal, it is a great example of how Cabernet Franc can add so much complexity and richness to a blend.

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.