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TOR

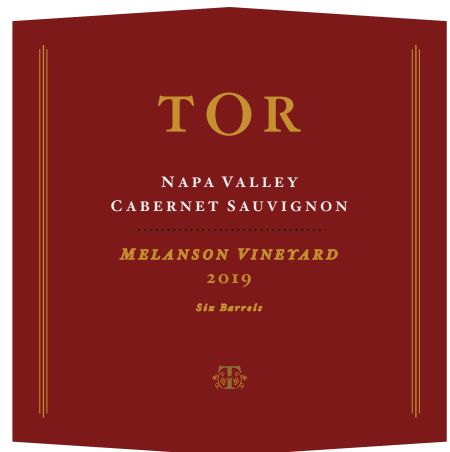
2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
MELANSON VINEYARD, NAPA VALLEY

TASTING NOTES

The 2019 Melanson Cabernet is certainly one of the most plush/round Melanson's we have made since we first started from here in 2013. There is the typical tannin structure from Pritchard Hill but this year the perception of the tannin is more supple and smooth. There is roast beef, tobacco, menthol, dried herbs, vineyard dust and currants. As approachable as this is right now I would expect a comfortable 10-15 years of graceful development.

TECHNICAL DATA

VINTNERS	Tor & Susan Kenward
WINEMAKER	Jeff Ames
VARIETAL	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
APPELLATION	Napa Valley
PRODUCTION	150 Cases
ALCOHOL	14.8%
AGING	20 months in 100% Taransaud French oak barrels.



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BACKGROUND

"My first three decades in the Napa Valley laid the foundation. I had extraordinary mentors all willing to openly share their knowledge and passion. Robert Mondavi, André Tchelistcheff, Warren Winiarski, Ed Sbragia, Maynard Amerine and many others encouraged me to learn and experiment. We tasted together and exchanged information. Beringer also sent me to travel and walk Europe's most renowned vineyards, talk and taste with other winemakers, taste more, kick the dirt where world class wines are grown, and listen." – Tor Kenward

Jeff is one of an unusual breed of winemakers that includes his mentor Thomas Brown, Failla's Ehren Jordan and a few others who learned wine making primarily hands on. Walking the vineyards, harvests and tastings were Ames' real classrooms. "The model that was set before me was to get big, rich fruit, plush flavors, and not fine or filter if you don't have to," he says. "That's where it starts." Jeff is a purist, making sure the wines express their site foremost, rather than a particular winemaking style. During their many years of working together, Jeff and Tor have earned world-class critical acclaim. In most vintages, their single vineyard Cabernet Sauvignons and Chardonnays have scored in the top ten wines of the vintage, always among the best of Napa Valley, making them rare and hard to find. This seems to be a trend that will also be very much a part of their future.