

# JUDGE



# PALMER

2016

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

BECKSTOFFER  
TO KALON VINEYARD  
NAPA VALLEY

*Tasting Notes:*

"Ripe and bright in feel, with racy red currant and raspberry coulis flavors leading the way. Invigorating savory, briar and sweet tobacco notes fill in throughout. A subtle apple wood frame on the finish lets the fruit mingle. Best from 2022 through 2036. 93 points."

—James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator*

*Vineyard:*

The name *To Kalon* is whispered in hushed tones among lovers of Cabernet Sauvignon everywhere. There is something magical about the terroir at this valley floor site in Oakville that has produced world-class wines for generations of Napa Valley vintners. To Kalon sits on an alluvial fan deposited by ancient streams that flowed down from the Mayacamas mountains, establishing deep, gravelly, well-draining soils.

*Vintage:*

While the winter preceding the 2016 growing season didn't completely alleviate the drought, it did provide at least some measure of much needed rains to dried out vines. Winter ended early and the growing season again began ahead of schedule, as it had in 2014 & 2015. Relatively mild weather continued unabated throughout spring and summer, and there was a cold snap after the early grapes were harvested that allowed a bit of extra hang-time for our later ripening Cabernet lots. Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard was picked on September 28th and the grapes featured great structure and depth of flavor.

*Winemaking:*

The grapes were destemmed into one open-top tank for a brief cold soak before fermentation began spontaneously with wild yeast. Fermentation continued without the addition of any chemicals or enzymes, aided only by the heat of the sun and daily punch-downs. After pressing the wine went into 100% new French oak barrels from Darnajou, Taransaud and Ermitage, where it aged for 24 months.