



**Tasting Notes and Ratings**  
**By Robert M. Parker, Jr.**  
**December 26, 2008**

TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR CAB. SAUV. BECKSTOFFER TO-KALON VYD.	OAKVILLE	(\$150.00)	RED	96
TOR KENWARD	2007	TOR CABERNET SAUVIGNON CIMAROSSA VYD.	HOWELL MTN.	(not yet released)	RED	(91-93)
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR CABERNET SAUVIGNON CIMAROSSA VYD.	HOWELL MTN.	(\$75.00)	RED	93
TOR KENWARD	2007	TOR CABERNET SAUVIGNON MAST VYD.	YOUNTVILLE	(not yet released)	RED	(92-96)
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR CABERNET SAUVIGNON MAST VYD.	YOUNTVILLE	(\$75.00)	RED	95
TOR KENWARD	2007	TOR CHARDONNAY DURELL VYD.	SONOMA COAST	(\$53.00)	WHITE	(92-94)
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR CHARDONNAY DURELL VYD.	SONOMA COAST	(\$53.00)	WHITE	92
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR CHARDONNAY CUVÉE MOLLY HUDSON VYD.	NAPA	(\$60.00)	WHITE	93
TOR KENWARD	2005	TOR CHARDONNAY CUVÉE TORCHIANA	NAPA	(\$60.00)	WHITE	94
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR ROCK GRENACHE CUVÉE COOPER	BENNETT VALLEY	(\$53.00)	RED	90
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR ROCK SYRAH JUDGE VINEYARD	BENNETT VALLEY	(\$53.00)	RED	90
TOR KENWARD	2007	TOR ROCK SYRAH HUDSON VYD.	CARNEROS	(not yet released)	RED	(91-93)
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR ROCK SYRAH HUDSON VYD.	NAPA	(\$60.00)	RED	94
TOR KENWARD	2007	TOR ROCK SYRAH/GREN. JUDGE FMY. HOM. ALLEN.	BENNETT VLY.	(\$53.00)	RED	90
TOR KENWARD	2006	TOR ROCK SYRAH/GREN. JUDGE FMY. HOM. ALLEN.	BENNETT VLY.	(\$53.00)	RED	92

Good things happen to good people, and Tor Kenward is not only one of the leaders in the wine business (he's a longtime executive at Beringer), but he is also a true wine connoisseur, humanitarian, and a burgeoning high quality wine producer. His concentration on Burgundian-styled, single vineyard Chardonnays, or single clones, some impressive Syrahs under the Tor Rock label, and some fabulous Cabernet Sauvignon under the Tor label, has gotten him off to a rocket ship-like launch. Production remains under 3,000 cases (and it is not likely to increase), but this winery is well-worth following as the wines are hand-crafted and bursting with personality.

The Chardonnay offerings include the superb **2007 Tor Chardonnay Durell Vineyard**, from an old Wente clone. Beautiful orange blossom, honeysuckle, white peach, and popcorn aromas and flavors emerge from this full-bodied white. Zesty acidity, a pure, full-bodied mouthfeel, crisp minerality, and laser-like focus suggest this lovely white wine will drink well for 5-6 years. From a more challenging vintage, the **2006 Tor Chardonnay Durell Vineyard** is a strong effort. There is no hint of botrytis, nor any of the monolithic character possessed by some 2006 Chardonnays. This offering displays classic notes of nectarines, orange and lemon oil, tropical fruit, hazelnut, and smoky, earthy undertones. Full-bodied, pure, and long, it can be enjoyed over the next 2-3 years. The **2006 Tor Chardonnay Cuvée Molly Hudson Vineyard** offers terrific minerality along with loads of white peach, honeysuckle, tropical fruit, and smoky hazelnut characteristics. With a very good finish as well as length, this pure Chardonnay should drink well for 2-3 years. The most prodigious effort in this quartet is the **2005 Tor Chardonnay Cuvée Torchiana**, which also is made from an old Wente Chardonnay clone grown in a cool climate. The wine shows virtually no wood in its aromas or flavors. Nectarine, orange marmalade, lemon oil, white peach, and brioche notes are found in this full-bodied effort, along with terrific acidity, laser-like focus, and a long finish. It should drink well for 5-7 years. It is just fabulous.

Tor Kenward was a Rhône wine enthusiast long before those wines became fashionable. In an attempt to emulate some of the top-notch French Rhône, he has sought out cool vineyard sites in the Bennett Valley and southern Napa. The **2007 Tor Rock Syrah/Grenache Judge Family Vineyards Hommage Allen** is a blend of 75% Grenache, 20% Syrah, and 5% Marsanne. Its classic aromas of kirsch liqueur, licorice, and charcoal do an admirable job of imitating a serious Châteauneuf du Pape from France's Rhône Valley. A deep ruby/purple color, broad, full-bodied flavors, and plenty of purity suggest this wine will drink well young, yet keep for 7-8 years. The **2007 Tor Rock Syrah Hudson Vineyard** also looks promising, although it will need to gain some complexity to match the extraordinary 2006. The 2007 offers up scents of blackberries and spring flowers in a grapy, still somewhat unformed, but gorgeously fruity, full-bodied style with no hard edges. Seamlessly constructed, pure, and long, it should drink well young, and last for a decade. The **2006 Tor Rock Syrah/Grenache Judge Family Vineyards Hommage Allen** is

composed of 75% Syrah and 25% Grenache. Aromas of charcoal, asphalt, pepper, roasted meats, and blackberries emerge from this firmly structured, medium to full-bodied, backward 2006. It will benefit from several years of cellaring, and should drink well for a decade or more. The **2006 Tor Rock Grenache Cuvée Cooper** (100% Grenache) reveals copious quantities of black cherry liqueur, sandy, loamy soil, subtle pepper, and roasted herbs. This fruit-forward, dense, rich Grenache is best drunk over the next 5-6 years. The **2006 Tor Rock Syrah Judge Vineyard** possesses notes of cassis, blackberries, roasted meats, pepper, and herbs, beautiful fruit, full-bodied power, and a heady finish. Even better is the prodigious **2006 Tor Rock Syrah Hudson Vineyard**. Inky/ruby/purple to the rim, it exhibits a bouquet redolent of spring flowers (acacia, or is it violet?), sweet blackberry and licorice-infused fruit, and hints of espresso as well as white chocolate. It is a full-bodied, powerful Syrah displaying a flawless integration of acidity, alcohol, wood, and tannin. Enjoy this sensational effort now and over the next decade.

Tor Kenward and his winemaker, Jeff Ames, are equally attuned to Cabernet Sauvignon. They produce three cuvées, including a brilliant effort from Yountville's Mast Vineyard, a more mineral-dominated, tannic wine from the Cimarossa Vineyard on Howell Mountain, and an offering from one of the classic sites for Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, Oakville's Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard. The **2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Mast Vineyard** is a Margaux-like effort displaying a huge fragrance of spring flowers, black currants, plums, and a hint of spice. Elegant, full-bodied flavors are intense and substantial, but neither heavy nor overweight. This beautiful, pure, well-balanced Cabernet should drink well for 20+ years. The sweet tannins and dense ruby/purple hue of the **2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Cimarossa Vineyard** give way to a wine with more minerality, full-bodied power, and a civilized personality. There is nothing rustic or astringent in this well-made, complex, earthy 2006. It, too, will drink nicely for two decades. The blockbuster, inky/purple-tinged **2006 Tor Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard** boasts abundant amounts of sweet *crème de cassis*, smoky herbs, graphite, cedar, and fruitcake aromas. Very full-bodied with fabulous fruit purity, a multilayered texture, and a 60-second finish, this sensational Cabernet should last for 20+ years.

The **2007 Cabernet Sauvignons** reveal their individual *terroirs*, with the Howell Mountain the most earthy, mineral-dominated, the Yountville the most floral and elegant, and the Oakville cuvée pure black currant liqueur intermixed with licorice, smoke, and graphite. In contrast to the 2006s, which are great successes from Tor Kenward, the 2007s possess even sweeter tannins and nearly unnoticeable levels of acidity, alcohol, and wood. The remarkably pure, deep, concentrated fruit character of all three wines (a hallmark of this extraordinary vintage) covers everything up at this point. All of these wines should turn out to be brilliant, and should achieve the same level of success as Kenward's 2006 Cabernet Sauvignons. Tel. (707) 963-3100; Fax (707) 963-3114