

**2007 Carter Cellars Cabernet
Sauvignon Beckstoffer To Kalon
Vineyard**

Even more backward is the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard. Its inky/blue/purple color is accompanied by a tight, but promising aromatic display of spring flowers, licorice, new oak, and blue and black fruits. The wine is dense and full-bodied as well as extremely high in tannin and extract. Forget it for 7-8 years and drink it over the following three decades.

Carter Cellars is a relatively new operation (it began in the late 1990s) run by Mark Carter and Nils Venge. The wines are made at Venge's Saddleback Cellars in Oakville with some assistance from Fred Schrader. They have some interesting vineyard sources, including the Beckstoffer To-Kalon Vineyard in Oakville, the Truchard Vineyard in Carneros, the Revilo Vineyard in St. Helena, and the Coliseum Block in Soda Canyon.

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- Robert Parker (December, 2009)