2012 Robert Mondavi BDX product - Bordeaux Blend, Oakville, Napa - 95 Points Rated | Historic To Kalon Vineyard

Why We're Drinking It
The king of grapes + a royal region + Mondavi’s Midas touch = awe inspiring Cab.

Why we’re drinking it:
- Only produced in the best vintages, Mondavi’s BDX is hands down our favorite steal from super exclusive Oakville. And this isn’t just anywhere Oakville; much of this this outstanding Bordeaux blend came from legendary To Kalon, voted “Vineyard of the Year” by the California State Farm Bureau in 2001.
- Lovers of Oakville Cab know: To Kalon is what put Oakville on the map and is largely responsible for the reputation of Mondavi’s top wines worldwide. The vineyard surrounds the Mondavi estate itself, and sits in the heart of the western Oakville AVA. Our Sourcers pounced on the opportunity to nab an allocation of this very typical To Kalon juice.

Reasons why we love it:
- Repeated testing trials were carried out in the winery, before the final assemblage of what was to become the 2012 BDX was set in stone. Before this final step, all varietals were vinified separately and aged in 91% new French oak barrels, imparting an unmistakable sweet vanilla spice and light toasty quality to the finished wine.
- Oakville’s reputation as one of the world’s premier zones for fine Cabernet production can trace its history back to 1868, when prospector H.W. Crabb purchased 240 acres in the area and began growing grape vines, including the first Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay vines in the valley. His winery was named To Kalon (“the beautiful” in Greek), and to this very day To Kalon remains the name of Oakville’s most prized Cab vineyard.
- Ripe fruit characters of cherry pie filling, black plum and wild berries are fresh and invitingly juicy. While vinified in a fruit-forward, accessible style, this red maintains an enviable degree of structure, too, and is a gorgeous drink at the table with meats, poultry and even rich, dark chocolate-based desserts. This BDX is 100% Oakville, and we can name no other wine from the Oakville appellation that delivers total authenticity at such a reasonable cost.

Tasting Notes
Rich black cherry and dark plum scents meet mocha and coffee aromas in this blend of Bordeaux red grapes. Fresh cherry flavors fill the mouth in a wine that is easily approached yet has the firm core structure to satisfy and age.

VARIETAL
Bordeaux Blend

APPELLATION
Oakville, Napa Valley

ALCOHOL
14.50

SIZE
750ml

BLEND
91% Cabernet Sauvignon 8% Cabernet Franc 1% Petit Verdot

The Story to Know
For more than 40 years, Robert Mondavi Winery has been the symbol of Napa Valley. Founded in 1966, it was the first major winery built in Napa Valley in the three decades following the repeal of Prohibition (1933), and went on to establish the foundation for modern California winemaking. Robert Mondavi Winery’s mission-style architecture, with the expansive archway and bell tower designed by Cliff May, has become an enduring landmark that honors California's history. With the philosophy that great wines reflect their origins, Robert Mondavi Winery pursues the fullest expression of the terroir of its Napa Valley vineyards: the historic To Kalon Vineyard in the Oakville American Viticultural Area (AVA), and the Wappo Hill Vineyard in the Stags Leap Vineyard AVA.

Perfect Pairings
Enjoy this wine alongside a wide array of dishes, including pasta primavera, salami, grilled steak, and herb-crusted lamb chops.

Ratings
Reviews
We scored a pretty sweet deal on this one, the prized BDX red from Robert Mondavi at the best price in the country. Classic Oakville Cab here, with cassis, graphite and violet on the expressive nose. The palate is sweet, dense and rich, with a stony minerality and chewy texture, leading to a long finish with sweet tannin and excellent structure. This comes highly recommended. Enjoy now through 2030. - DZ Dec 2016

"Classic Bordeaux varieties are ripened in Robert Mondavi's sunblessed and ideally located To Kalon vineyard to provide a wine both firm in structure and rich in texture—a different expression of Oakville. Not produced every vintage, this special wine has deep, blackberry fruit with savory and white sage flavors balanced by sweet oak spices."

- Genevieve Janssens, Director of Winemaking at Mondavi