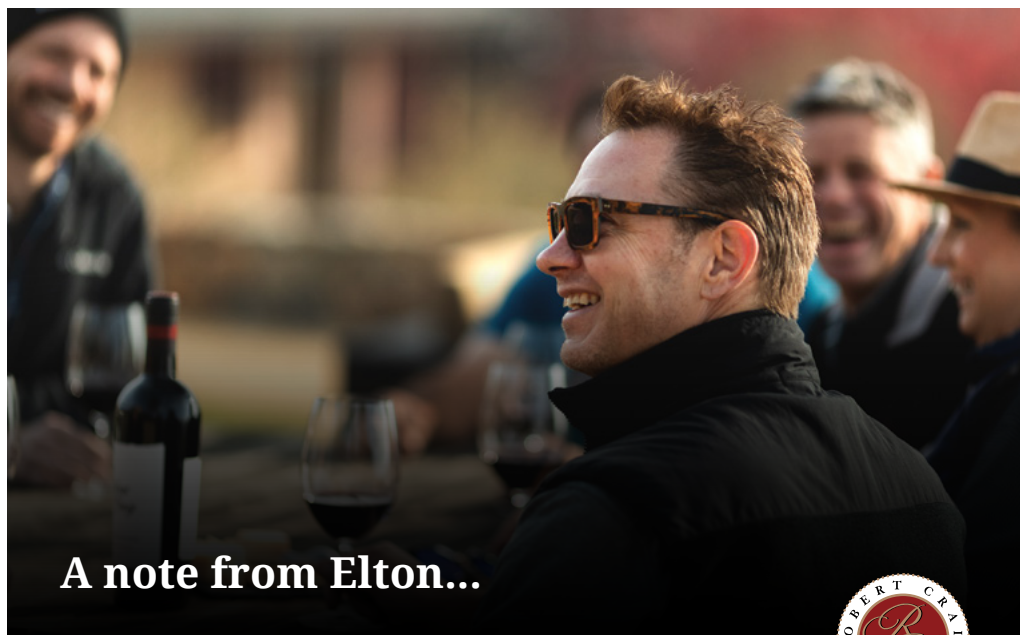


ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING | SUMMER 2021





A note from Elton...

Dear Craiger,

On my way home to Sausalito from our Napa office last evening I stopped by the expansive Sonoma Valley porch of my close friends, and former employers, for a glass of wine and a catch up. It was one of those afternoons in Northern California that served as a reminder that despite the crazy expense, the taxes, the traffic, and the "Karens" per-square-mile, that there is no place on the planet earth I'd rather end up. The poppies and mustard were basking in the warm sunshine (74 degrees in February) while the songbirds provided the backing vocals around the feeders, and Ruby chased rabbits out of the newly pruned vineyard in front of us. I masked up from car to porch, and we sat apart outside while enjoying some cellar treasures, but the virus tension had eased greatly from their ability to get vaccinated along with another forty-five million Americans to date. My turn is on the horizon with any luck.

Winter isn't done with us yet, but the grip is lessening, and green shoots are springing up all around. Americans have been a resilient lot for the better part of three hundred years, and I count the gang at Robert Craig Winery among the most resilient anywhere. The 2018 vintage was not without challenges as we lost a large portion of our Howell Mountain crop to smoke taint on the lower portion of our Candlestick Vineyard (more on that in the fall), but for our Affinity, Spring Mountain, Mount Veeder and Diamond Mountain Cabernets and our Gap's Crown Chardonnay: what a banner year! These wines are reminiscent of the 2014 vintage to me, featuring glorious fruit, deep color and power, all on display from the get-go.



We had a full house this weekend on the porch of our Downtown Napa Salon, and KC was wearing out the two-wheeler running cases out to customers' cars. The good weather we enjoyed yesterday is forecasted to last for a while to come, so our guests can relax without the need for the propane heaters and enjoy Sinatra in his prime alongside some of the best mountain wines produced anywhere in the world. It is a joy to be open and welcoming guests back to our little slice of the valley again. What can I say, but that I can't wait to catch up with each of you soon in person. I won't take for granted any longer being able to have a quick meet up with our customers when they stop in to share a glass at the Salon. My office is on the way to the bathrooms, so be sure to knock!

Last month, Jami Castro scoured the valley for top talent to hire a Wine Club & Estate Manager, and this week we welcome Scott Johnson to our hard-working team at Craig. There's something about our classically constructed mountain wines and the Craig Spirit that attracts the highest quality people to work here, and Scott will fit right in. As we prepare for bud break and bloom in the vineyard, we aren't sitting still with making your experience with us warmer, more unique and more personal.

As we roll into our Spring Cabernet Club release, I can't help but feel a sense of light and optimism for what lies ahead. The 2018 vintage wines are, as advertised, stunning examples of Napa Valley in full flight. The Spring Mountain District and Affinity Coombsville Cabernets might just be the finest we have ever produced, though the supply is constrained (we did not enjoy large yields



in 2018 on our vineyards). Our 2017 releases have unclenched their tannic fists at last and are beginning to show their class if you would like to perform a side-by-side tasting. I recommend sharing only with loved ones!

The ceaseless drumming of the whiffle ball bats from last year has abated as we get our teeth into 2021 at Craig and release our first set of 2018 wines to our best customers. Thank you for continuing this voyage with us to discover the pinnacle of Napa Valley at prices that remain sane. Carlos, Connor, Keith and Jason are hard at it in the vineyards and at the winery to produce wines at another level, while Kiersten, KC, Scott and Jami will press forward with your experience as a customer and member of the extended Craig family.

We are all wishing you a bountiful Spring season and safe passage through the remainder of the virus. Thank you for your support of our family business.

Love and peace,

Elton Slone
President/CEO/Partner



2018 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

2018 is Jason Price's first vintage as head winemaker at Robert Craig Winery after many years in the associate winemaker role. Jason's attention to detail shows in all the wines, and Affinity 2018 is no exception. La Londe Vineyard in Coombsville was planted by John Caldwell in 1988 on 5C rootstock, and I sometimes wish it were 110R or any other variation that did better in such stony soil. However, the wine exhibits a tremendous sense of site. Though Affinity is our least expensive Cabernet, it is no less cellar worthy than our mountain wine offerings. La Londe Vineyard is simply less expensive to farm by 30%, which is hard to believe at nearly \$14K per acre. The vineyard is extremely rocky, and the vines always struggle to produce 3.5 tons per acre. The 2018 version is dark black with pure cassis and espresso bean coming through the wine that remains supple despite the high tannin count. The other Bordeaux red varieties help the Cabernet Sauvignon to unlock and show itself fully. As always, our Affinity Cabernet represents one of the single best bargains for collectible, age worthy Napa Valley Cabernet.

BLEND:

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc & 1% Malbec

CASES PRODUCED:

3238



2018 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon Crowley Vineyard

Jason Price has worked with Crowley Vineyard for 6 years now while at Robert Craig Winery. We continue to receive the best rows of fruit from Joan Crowley's small vineyard at 2000' in elevation along the summit of Spring Mountain. Deep color and intense perfume of dark mountain flowers are the signature of this wine each year. The vineyard is biodynamically farmed and the yields are always small with tiny berries being a hallmark. This property requires patience and attention to detail. The 2018 vintage from Spring Mountain wine featured light yields. It is deeply colored, velvety on the palate and set for a long life ahead. 2005 was our first vintage from the Crowley property, so we are learning each year with this vineyard. Our 2018 wine is our best effort to date in terms of the color and intensity, and I expect this offering to age gracefully for decades to come.

BLEND:

88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc

CASES PRODUCED:

417



2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay

In our continuing quest to make the most age-worthy, structured, vibrant, racy white wine in all of California, I give you our very limited 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay from Bill Price's singular vineyard on the Sonoma Coast. In the not-so-distant past we mistakenly crushed enough fruit in 2014 to produce nearly 900 cases of this lovely wine, our peak production. However, we are a Cabernet house with a bad habit for noteworthy whites, and not the other way around. Our production has dropped to no more than the 300-case mark, where it will stay for the foreseeable future.

2018 was a perfect year to grow Chardonnay at the top of the Petaluma Gap. Bud break and set were early, and the growing season was long and mild. We harvested at low brix and fermented out completely dry while blocking malolactic fermentation from occurring to preserve the signature nerve of our Chardonnay. A judicious amount of new French oak was involved to round the shoulders a bit, but the 2018 Gap's Crown Chardonnay maintains its vibrant edge. Orange rind, smooth stream pebbles and the chalky soils of the vineyard all appear in this glorious wine. The wine is showing beautifully now but will easily handle fifteen to twenty years in the cellar. Don't wait, there is only a small amount.

BLEND:

100% Chardonnay

CASES PRODUCED:

145



Spring marks the release of some very exciting, limited availability wines as well.

2018 Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard

Peter Thompson's 13-acre Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard at 2,000' on Diamond Mountain produces this massive, structured Cabernet each year. With yields at just over 2 tons per acre, our production is always sparse, and in 2018 we produced only 500 cases of the Diamond Mountain Cabernet. Despite the power from our tiny knob of pure white volcanic ash in the vineyard, refinement and grace are still present in the finished wine. This year marks the addition of some tremendous Cabernet Franc from our same section of the vineyard. The 2018 vintage puts our Diamond Mountain District Cabernet qualitatively in the middle of those costing four times as much. This wine is an experience right out of the gate, but patience in the cellar will be greatly rewarded.

BLEND:

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc

CASES PRODUCED:

500



2018 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot

For those of you who have followed our progress with Merlot since its debut with the 2013 vintage in 2016, you should be chomping at the bit for our 2018 release. Our 2018 Merlot is a full-throttle Merlot experience with all the tannin structure and backbone that Howell Mountain brings. It couples an exotic perfume in the nose and dark cassis and wild bramble berry fruit in the mouth. We lost a large portion of our Merlot crop to smoke taint on the lower portion of our Candlestick property in 2018, but, mercifully, the upper blocks were completely free of any problems related to the Carr and Paradise fires that year. Unlike our 2015 vintage Merlot release that saw production spike to 700 cases, until we began to sell a good deal of that fruit to pay farming costs, we are currently only making 150 cases of this thrilling wine. At \$90 per bottle for one of the great red wines produced in all the Napa Valley, our Merlot is a steal.

BLEND:

97% Merlot, 3% Malbec

CASES PRODUCED:

151



Our Tasting Salon and Howell Mountain Winery are Open to Visitors

The health and safety of our Guests and employees is of utmost concern to us at Robert Craig. We have implemented all the suggested safety protocols to make your visit worry-free. We look forward to raising a glass with you!

Three Ways to Join Us for a Virtual Tasting

We miss you! If you are not quite ready or able to plan a visit to the Napa Valley, let the Napa Valley come to you.

• **Schedule a Private Interactive Virtual Tasting for your Friends or Family**
Looking for a more personal Virtual Tasting experience? Do you have a special occasion coming up and are looking for a creative way to celebrate? We would love to schedule a private Virtual Tasting for you and your family or friends. Choose the Tasting Set that most appeals to you and we will coordinate a Zoom Tasting experience for you and your guests hosted by one of our knowledgeable Craig crew members!

• **Schedule a Private Interactive Virtual Tasting for your Corporate Group**
Are you looking for ways to stay connected to clients and business partners? Does your team deserve a reward for a job well done? Are you trying to develop a team building activity with everyone working remotely? Let us coordinate a Virtual Tasting experience co-hosted by you. We will work with you to choose the wines that fit your budget and send ahead to each of your recipients. Sharing a glass, even virtually, brings everyone together.

• **Register for one of Elton's Interactive Virtual Tasting Webinars**
Missing some of those social interactions and outlets? Connect with Elton and other Cabernet loving friends each month as he hosts a themed Virtual Tasting Webinar. If you would like to sip alongside Elton and his special guest host, purchase the specially selected Wine Tasting Set ahead and join in the fun! Raise a glass, share in the stories, learn something new and feel the camaraderie.

Give us a call (707) 252-2250, visit the Events or Visit section of our Website or email us at info@robertcraigwine.com for more information on a Virtual Tasting experience.



Robert Craig Wine List

SPRING RELEASES

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|------------------------------------------|-------|
| 2018 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot | \$90 |
| 2018 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | \$120 |
| 2018 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | \$70 |
| 2018 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | \$100 |
| 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay | \$55 |

SUMMER RELEASES

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 2020 La Fleur Craig Rosé | \$35 |
| 2019 Howell Mountain Cuvée | \$50 |

CURRENT RELEASES

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 2017 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | \$110 |
| 2016 "The Stick" Howell Mountain Estate Candlestick Ridge Vineyard | \$150 |
| 2017 Côte de Craig Howell Mountain Estate | \$90 |
| 2017 Howell Mountain Black Sears Vineyard Zinfandel | \$65 |
| 2015 Howell Mountain Estate Robert's Block Cabernet Sauvignon | \$295 |

10 YEAR LIBRARY RELEASE

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 2011 Howell Mountain Zinfandel Black Sears Vineyard | \$91 |
| 2011 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | \$105 |
| 2011 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | \$140 |
| 2011 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon | \$140 |
| 2011 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | \$154 |

LARGE FORMAT AVAILABILITY

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2018 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | 1.5L \$165/ 3.0L \$395 |
| 2017 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon | 1.5L \$245/ 3.0L \$485 |
| 2016 Mount Veeder Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Amentet Vineyard | 1.5L \$225/ 3.0L \$460 |
| 2018 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | 1.5L \$225/ 3.0L \$460 |
| 2018 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon | 1.5L \$265/ 3.0L \$495 |

Member Benefits

All Wine Clubs are Completely Customizable

Craig Summit Society (4 cases/year) – 20% off + Complimentary Shipping on Reorders

Craig Premier Crew (2 cases/year) – 15% off + Half-Off Ground Shipping on Reorders

Craig Village & A La Mode Members (1 case/year) – 10% off + Half-Off Ground Shipping on Reorders

How To Order

Visit our online wine shop at robertcraigwine.com

Contact us by phone at 707.252.2250 | Email: sales@robertcraigwine.com

To inquire about membership, or upgrade your membership level, contact us directly 707.252.2250

Visit Our Downtown Napa Tasting Salon

Tastings available by appointment at our Downtown Napa Tasting Salon & Patio

Mon-Sat 10am – 4pm; Sun 11am – 4pm

Call 707.252.2250 or Email: info@robertcraigwine.com



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