

Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

2015 HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

ABOUT THIS WINE This wine is produced from our 9.5-acre estate vineyard, perched along the summit ridge of Howell Mountain at 2300'. The Howell Mountain AVA begins at 1400 feet and includes vineyards that sit above the inversion layer and fog line. Considered our flagship release, the Howell Mountain Cabernet is the defining wine of our portfolio — a rare and extraordinary wine from a superb vineyard. Though the tannin structure is off the charts each year, the tannins are supple and round, allowing a measure of grace in youth for such a long lived wine

VINEYARD Planted in 1997 on 110R rootstock which fares well in stony soils, our estate vineyard is showing the vine maturity in the finished wines. The red volcanic and tufa soils give this Cabernet a wild, bramble berry character, coupled with touches of warm red stones and spice. Of all of the vineyards we own and manage, the variation in soils and microclimates within this small property make it the most challenging to farm. The yields are on average a meager 1.8 tons to the acre, but the fruit possesses a rare power and expression of site. Soils are especially shallow, even for Howell Mountain, and the vines must work through the rocky soils to seek moisture. Since 2009 we have been converting the site to cane pruned so that each vine can have an individual plan for the amount of crop it will need to ripen. We call this wine our “blood from the stones” for a reason.

VINTAGE After three abundant, mild harvests in a row, the 2015 kicked off with unseasonably warm temperatures, resulting in early budbreak and bloom. Colder temperatures in May (the peak of bloom) caused some uneven fruit set which ultimately resulted in a smaller crop compared to previous years. Harvest was one of the earliest on record on the valley floor, while mountain fruit lingered on the vine into mid-October. The ongoing drought continued to be a concern, though Napa Valley received 75% of normal rainfall.

The red volcanic and tufa soils give our Howell Mountain Cabernet a wild, bramble berry character, coupled with touches of warm red stones and spice. Round, supple tannins frame flavors of red berry, blackberry and graphite. Full-bodied and decidedly opulent.

BLEND: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petit Verdot, 4% Malbec, 1% Merlot

HARVEST DATES: September 15-October 8, 2015

AVERAGE SUGAR: 25.5° Brix | **TA:** 6.7g/L | **PH:** 3.72 | **ALCOHOL:** 14.83%

BARREL AGING: 18 mo. Chateau-style French oak; 80% new/20% 2nd yr.
Unfiltered & unfined.

BOTTLING DATE: May 1-2, 2017

CASES PRODUCED: 1275 | **PRICE:** CA SRP \$95.00

