

*Cabernet Sauvignon*  
ELEVATED™



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## 2016 HOWELL MOUNTAIN ZINFANDEL

**ABOUT THIS WINE** This gorgeous Zinfandel hails from the incredible Black Sears Vineyard — found (quite literally if you've got a decent arm) a stone's throw from our estate vineyard gate at the top of Howell Mountain. When poured out, the wine's signature Howell Mountain pedigree is immediately evident, with deep blackberry, white pepper and a refreshing minerality at the forefront.

**VINEYARD** Black Sears has "King of the Mountain" bragging rights - topping out at 2400 feet, making it officially the highest vineyard on the mountain. For 25 years, winemakers have clamored for the Zinfandel grown here: both biodynamic and organic, the site is dry farmed and the vines pruned in the old world style with no trellising. Zinfandel thrives in the mountain's well-drained, rocky volcanic soils and moderate climate.

**VINTAGE** 2016 in Napa Valley was considered an "exceptional vintage," with ideal growing conditions, moderate yields and superb wine quality. The early, moderate weather and lack of significant heat events made for one of the best quality vintages of recent memory. Compared to the previous four vintages, 2016 saw wetter spring soil conditions, requiring careful canopy maintenance. Yields were moderate to below average going into harvest. Tannin quantity was overall slightly low, but tannin quality is excellent.

The 2016 Black Sears Vineyard Zinfandel is beautifully clean and focused with boysenberry and bramble berry on the nose and palate wrapped in subtle pepper spice. This beauty is balanced and elegantly structured through the finish.

**BLEND:** 77% Zinfandel, 23% Cabernet Franc

**HARVEST DATES:** September 24, 2016

**AVERAGE SUGAR:** 25.7° Brix | **TA:** 6.1g/L | **PH:** 3.64 | **ALCOHOL:** 14.8%

**BARREL AGING:** 18 months in Chateau-style French oak; 50% new & 50% 2nd year. Unfiltered and unfined.

**BOTTLING DATE:** May 3, 2018

**CASES PRODUCED:** 355

**PRICE:** CA SRP \$60.00

