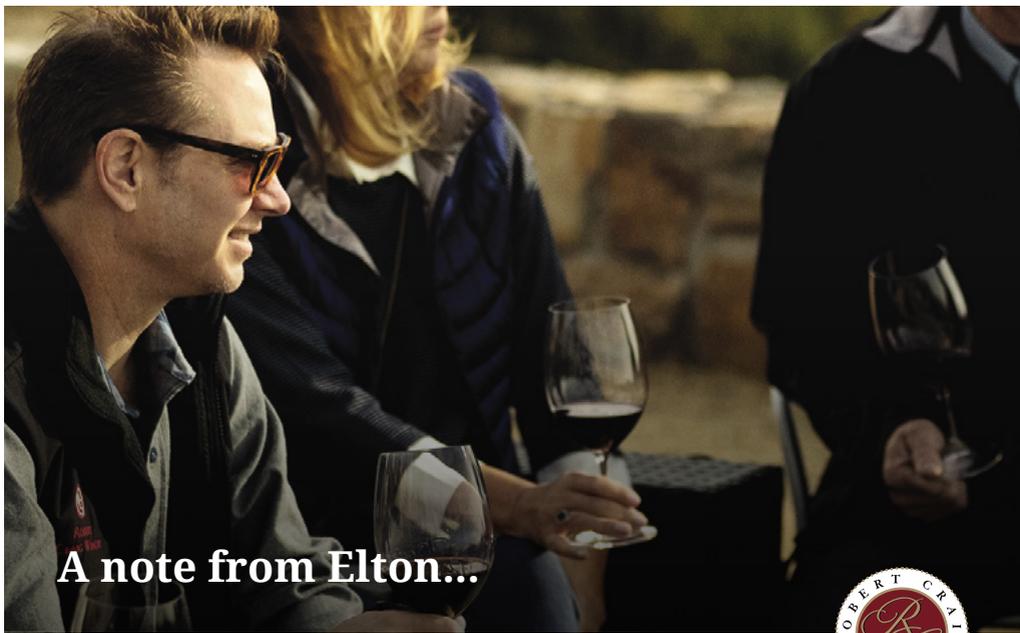




ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

FALL | WINTER 2021





A note from Elton...



I feel like I'm living the meme here at the end of 2021—still processing 2020 and 2022 is here in four months!. I cannot believe how quickly the year has flown by, but there are many notable moments from the first two-thirds of 2021 that I will recall for the remainder of my time on the planet.

Shelly and I moved out of Sausalito in March, my home since I moved to California from Indiana in the mid-1990s, and into our comfortable bungalow on the north side of San Rafael. After living in a townhome for decades, I'm still trying to get my innate, Hoosier rhythm back for yard work and household repairs. I miss the beautiful town of Sausalito in many ways, but I have to say the move has given us our summer back. Not to mention, it's still only 15 minutes from our door to a table at Poggio or Sushi Ran.

From "June Gloom" to "Julyjuary" to "Fogust", summers in Sausalito were cold, windy affairs that kept us indoors in the evening 90% of the time. In San Rafael where it's 15 degrees warmer every day, we spend the afternoon and evenings on our deck enjoying some of the best weather that California has to offer. We are currently in a tomato craze (insert "tomato" for "shrimp" à la Bubba's soliloquy in Forrest Gump, and you get the idea) that seems to pair best with dry, German Riesling or whites from Northern Italy. I had no idea that a change in the weather would yield such a profound change in my outlook. Whiling away the summer evenings in shorts, a t-shirt and flip flops, sure beats flannel shirts, heavy socks and slippers. Plus, the San Francisco Giants are in first place heading into September, and no one saw that coming.

More than anything else though, it is how welcoming and helpful our new neighbors have been to Shelly and me. I feel like we are living in the modern version of Mayberry. It is a lesson that keeps repeating itself over in the world that if we care for our communities, we can collectively move those human ingredients of kindness and compassion further afield.



As we release our noteworthy 2018 wines from Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder to our best customers (this is you), I can't help but think of all of the love and work and community that we have built up around our high-quality mountain produce over the last 30 years at Robert Craig Winery. The ability to see our Craig family again has been an emotional lift that is hard to describe. All the Zoom in the world can't make up for a big hug and a shared bottle on the porch with a customer at the end of the day. Please come see us and let me know if you are coming out.

I wish you all safe passage through the current surge in Coronavirus, and I hope you are enjoying this summer as much as I am. We will talk later about our move to DIAM corks, lighter weight bottles, organic farming practices, our new tasting salon location at the 2nd Street Commons (two blocks from the Archer Hotel), how Phil Coturri and Pete Richmond are moving our farming into the stratosphere, and why Scott Johnson is smarter, younger and faster than me; but I'll save that for now. Shelly is making some grilled cheese sandos with cheddar and a hefty slice of salted farmer's market tomato in between the sourdough slices along with a green salad and some spicy tomato soup. Cru Beaujolais?

Love and peace,

Elton Slone
President/CEO/Partner



2018 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon Winery Estate Vineyard

2018 was a standout vintage for most of the Napa Valley, though northeast Napa Vineyards struggled with smoke from the Ranch and River fires to the north. Fortunately, the upper sections of our Winery Estate Vineyard and Candlestick Ridge Vineyard were unaffected by the smoke that stubbornly settled into the lower portions of our properties. (Another advantage to being at the top of the mountain.) The fruit that was harvested and made into our estate bottling was free from smoke taint and of extraordinary quality. Antonio Galloni gave us rave reviews for the 2018 release, though possibly tempered a bit by the difficulties of our downstairs neighbors that year.

The 2018 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet shows the typical thorny stem fruit that is a Howell Mountain hallmark. Deep, dark nuances of iron, graphite and crushed rock dance around the core of black fruit that coats the palate. The 2018 exhibits the racy energy of the vintage in every way, and this wine should easily cellar for decades despite the balance that makes it possible to enjoy while young. The red volcanic soils and pure tufa of Candlestick combine to produce a structured, towering Cabernet in 2018.

COMPOSITION: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Malbec, 1% Merlot

CASES PRODUCED: 1989

94 "A powerful, driving wine, the Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain is loaded with character. Inky dark fruit, chocolate, new leather, licorice, lavender and spice emerge, but only with great reluctance. Readers will have to be patient here. The Howell Mountain Cabernet emerges from Robert Craig's Summit Lake estate vineyard. Drinking window 2025-2038."
— Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, 3/1/21



2018 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon Amentet Estate Vineyard

After the disaster of 2017 that saw us leave perfect fruit on the vine as the smoke and flames from the Tubbs fire enveloped the vineyard, 2018 provided nearly perfect growing conditions in our Amentet Vineyard along the northern portion of the Mount Veeder AVA. We continued the conversion to cane pruning in order to allow for each vine to determine its fruit load. It has been an expensive and labor-intensive process, but the results have been tremendous. The 2018 vintage was also remarkable in that we used barely any irrigation for the year after turning up every other row to plant new cover crop. The lack of water kept vegetative growth in check, and the resulting clusters were small and intensely flavored.

The 2018 Amentet Vineyard Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon is simply a massive, iconic example of what is possible in the Mount Veeder AVA. Dried cocoa flake, pencil shavings, cassis, dark floral undertones, and mineral accents all emerge from the glass after a couple of minutes of air. The tannin structure is profound, but the tannins remain juicy, round and well developed so that the wine enjoys a seamless weight on the palate and a finish that extends beyond expectation. We are beyond excited to offer this wine up to our customers after a missed vintage.

COMPOSITION: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

CASES PRODUCED: 1009

95 "... a heady, explosive Mount Veeder wine. Iron, sweet red cherry, mint, dried flowers, licorice, mocha and rose petal all grace this wonderfully expressive, nuanced Cabernet. Best of all, the 2018 won't need more than a few years in bottle to be approachable. It's a gorgeous wine, that much is clear. The best is yet to come."
— Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, 3/1/21



2018 Howell Mountain Zinfandel Black Sears Vineyard

2018 was a wonderful vintage for Zinfandel at Black Sears Vineyard. Black Sears is a dry-farmed property, so yields were exceptionally small for the 2018 vintage despite the even keeled growing season. There simply was not enough moisture in the soil to grow large clusters. Pete Richmond and Silverado Farming had the vineyard in ideal condition, and the Zinfandel harvest occurred earlier than usual on this gorgeous site just 200 yards from our winery gate.

The 2018 Black Sears Zinfandel continues to show that exotic, ground white pepper and spicebox in the nose, and even more so in the mouth. The breadth and length of the wine on the palate is what sets this Zinfandel apart from so many others. There is no substitute for high elevation and shallow soils when it comes to developing flavor in Zinfandel grapes, and Black Sears has those features in spades. The 2018 is forward and explosive in the nose, showing those Howell Mountain bramble berry fruits, but there is so much more that keeps emanating from the wine once it hits the palate. 2018 is another terrific vintage for Black Sears Zinfandel.

COMPOSITION: 95% Zinfandel, 5% Petite Sirah
CASES PRODUCED: 344



2017 “The Stick” Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard

The 2017 vintage on our Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard is an ideal expression of Howell Mountain terroir. Howell Mountain was spared any smoke in the 2017 vintage that plagued a good deal of the valley, and the low yields and moderate growing conditions resulted in wines with great structure as well as the ability to show vineyard site. We held our offering of this wine back a year in order to have it firing on all cylinders upon release. It is really a dense, dark super structured blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Malbec, and a wine that requires some patience in the decanter or in the glass.

The depth of this 2017 is limitless. The tannins are profound, as in the 2016 release, but ultimately rounder and more integrated. 2017 was an exceptional year for Malbec and Merlot at The Stick, and the sizable addition of these varieties give a density and perfume to the wine that is otherworldly. Dark black fruit, iodine, dark violet, forest floor and Howell Mountain pepper are all present in the nose and in the mouth for our second release of The Stick. An extraordinary wine that is beginning to show itself after four years.

COMPOSITION: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Malbec
CASES PRODUCED: 490



2018 Côte de Craig Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard

2018 was a challenging but rewarding vintage for our Côte de Craig offering. As a great deal of work has been done to alleviate eutypa dieback in the Syrah portion of Candlestick Ridge Vineyard, which led to much lower tonnage than even the historically low yields there. The Grenache was likewise challenged after going through a pruning change, so we have very little of this wine to offer in the end. As with the Cabernet, the Côte de Craig displays the exuberant, intense, full-throttle nature of the 2018 vintage.

Our 2018 Côte de Craig from Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard is a study in how successful Rhône Valley varieties can be on California soil. The 2200' elevation of these vines that were planted in 1997 has allowed the grapes to ripen slowly and evenly without excess alcohol development, or any prune or raisin flavors or aromas. Ground white pepper, grilled bacon fat, leather, wild berry fruit and dark mountain flowers are present in this delightful, intense red wine. This year sees a little less Syrah in the blend than typical as we make corrections to that vineyard, but the wine is no less complex or appealing.

COMPOSITION: 68% Grenache, 32% Syrah
CASES PRODUCED: 242



Holiday Gifting

Let us help you manage your holiday list; everyone from your favorite wine connoisseurs to your corporate clients. The Craig Crew can help! Give us a call or visit our website to view our available Wine Sets.

**Contact Jami, Scott or KC at (707) 252-2250
or email sales@robertcraigwine.com.**



Upcoming Events

With COVID protocols remaining a moving target, we are still picking the dates for our final events of 2021. Be sure you're signed up for our emails to make sure you're the first to know.

- **October 29** – Interactive Virtual Tasting
- **December –TBD** – Holiday Open House at the Craig



Robert Craig Wine List

FALL RELEASES

2018 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$110
2018 Mount Veeder Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$100
2018 Howell Mountain Black Sears Vineyard Zinfandel	\$65
2018 Côte de Craig Howell Mountain Estate	\$90
2017 "The Stick" Howell Mountain Estate Candlestick Ridge Vineyard	\$150

CURRENT RELEASES

2020 La Fleur Craig Grenache Rosé	\$30 – SOLD OUT
2019 Gap's Crown Chardonnay	\$58
2018 Affinity Estate Cabernet	\$70
2019 Howell Mountain Cuvée	\$50
2018 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot	\$90
2018 Spring Mountain Cabernet	\$100
2018 Diamond Mountain Cabernet	\$120
2015 Howell Mountain Estate Robert's Block Cabernet Sauvignon	\$295

7 YEAR LIBRARY RELEASE

2014 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay	\$76
2014 Howell Mountain Zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard	\$80
2014 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot	\$110
2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$86
2014 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$123
2014 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$123
2014 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$135
2014 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$147

LARGE FORMAT AVAILABILITY

2018 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$165/ 3.0L \$395
2018 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$245/ 3.0L \$485
2018 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

Open Daily 10am – 4pm

Call 707.252.2250 or Email: info@robertcraigwine.com



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

Napa, California 94559

robertcraigwinery.com

   @robertcraigwinery

