



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING | SUMMER 2022





A note from Elton...



Dear Cabernet Clubber,

It is hard for me to articulate how much I am looking forward to the Spring here at Robert Craig Winery. Our 2019 wines are the finest we have ever produced, we have finally found a brand-compatible tasting salon space downtown (where the furniture has finally arrived), and we are experiencing major growth in our direct-to-consumer sales channel. I feel like Sally Field at the Oscars, "You love me! You really love me!" Also, we have been recognized by the press for the work we have done in the quality arena at our place, particularly in farming and winemaking in the 2019 vintage. We haven't been sitting still at Craig. At this rate, it won't be long before I'll be interjecting the phrase "on my boat" into every conversation while wearing an ascot without a whiff irony. So far, I've only seen Fred Schrader pull that off on the cover of *The Wine Spectator*.

I came to the realization during Covid that I wouldn't be able to lead our company, manage production, farming, consumer sales, our finances and the national market without some sort of nervous breakdown. At the start of February we welcomed a partnership with the fine estates focused Old Bridge Cellars National Marketing Company to manage the sales of our wines to the distribution channel. This will not only give me (and the staff) my life back, but it will also assure price uniformity throughout retail outlets in the country. Aside from a little 2017 Affinity out there with some Pandemic pricing on it, I want our customers to know that you can order the wines from us at the best price, with the best provenance and with the most convenience. Plus, I'll be available on a more regular basis to step into the tasting room and "taste" wine with our visitors.

We continue to evolve and grow at RCW, and part of that growth is in our people. Jami Castro is leaving us to start up her own real estate brokerage, a business that has run through her family for years and is a personal passion for her, but she is remaining on part time to spearhead our big-picture branding efforts. I tried threats and begging, but Jami was resolute. Scott Johnson will assume the role of Consumer Sales and Hospitality Director, and he is one of the most talented people with whom I have ever had the pleasure of working. Carley Maierhofer will come down from her harvest internship and conduct tastings as well as work with the production crew (she's a double threat!) and Yordanos Gebru (all the way from Ethiopia) has taken the helm as Oenologist up at



the winery. Phil Kou is turning over our Instagram and Facebook accounts to Natalie Barnard next month as his big job in tech is keeping him too busy to handle our accounts, but please know that the rest of our crew and I check in regularly on your posts. We love them. Our band of merry women and men continue to hold down the fort at Craig.

As we rotate back to some sense of normalcy in 2022, it is my gratitude that comes to mind first. I'm able to go to work every day with the idea of producing the world's greatest cabernet, and not many people can say that. Shelly and Toonces (our rescue cat) and I have been enjoying the good family life with more time at home. I have gained tremendous perspective from all the adversity we have faced as a company over the last thirty months. I realized that we don't have to be the techiest, or the most ostentatious, or the most expensive place to visit in the Napa Valley. We just need to have the best wines, caring, passionate and knowledgeable staff, and the ability to slow down and appreciate the people who take their time and energy and hard-earned cash to come to see us.

Thank you for your continued support of our business. This spring release will ship the best Chardonnay (should you add it), the best Affinity and the best Spring Mountain wines that we have ever produced at RCW. It's a thrilling time for us here on Howell Mountain, and we couldn't be happier to have you along for the ride. Please come see us here in the valley and shoot me an email before you come out. I would love to share a dark glass of something profound.

From our partners Maureen Nugent, Michael Adams, Derek Ruston, our gang at Craig and me.

Love, Peace and Mountain Cabernet

Elton Slone
President/CEO/Partner



2019 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon Crowley Vineyard

I think Antonio Galloni of Vinous Media had it right with the 2019 vintage, the color and tannin that came pouring out of the fruit in such a monumental vintage needed some true attention to detail in the winery. So many of the wines that I've tasted lost their sense of place and nuance due to a failure to adjust protocols on the crush pad and in the barrel room. Our 2019 Spring Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon from Joan Crowley's small vineyard at 2000' near the summit of Spring Mountain is a huge wine, but it is also balanced and velvety and loaded with the aspects that make those volcanic soils so desired for wine grape cultivation.

The 2019 Spring Mountain Cabernet is our best effort to date (with the possible exception of the 2015) from this unique site. The wine was tight when I tasted with Antonio in late October, garnering a 94+ point score rather than the 96 or 97s of our other mountain offerings, but it is not a lesser wine. I chalk it up to one of those days. The wine is absolutely opaque with cassis, blue stone, lavender black flowers and lead pencil all emanating from the glass. This is such a distinct wine that it is hard to articulate how much I enjoy it. If you love great Spring Mountain District Cabernet, you've come to the right place.

VINYARDS: Crowley Vineyard

APPELLATION: Spring Mountain District

COMPOSITION: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

CASES PRODUCED: 340



2019 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon La Londe Estate Vineyard

Our 2019 Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon comes on the heels of our previous "best ever" vintage, 2018. I was sharing a glass of the 2018 Affinity recently with some industry friends at our home in late January after a load of great food and plenty of iconic import wines, including first growth Bordeaux. We needed that one more bottle, and I didn't want to open another high dollar wine at that point. After a couple of minutes in an empty water pitcher, that 2018 Affinity was leaping from the glass. Big, dark, supple, and wound. It was everything I would come to expect from a great Coombsville red, like the Favia Cerro Sur (seriously great) from Andy Erickson and Annie Favia that I cracked at the end of January, except that 2018 Affinity isn't \$225 per bottle. Our visiting friends paused after the first taste and said, "What IS this?" Exactly the reaction I would expect. They couldn't believe that they were having Affinity. I could barely believe it.

The 2019 takes things a step further in a vintage that was lower yielding than in 2018. The wine is simply one of the best cabernets to be found in the Napa Valley at any price. Bring your brown bag out in six years and take everyone's money at the blind tasting table. I am so excited for you to have this wine come to your homes and cellars. Our 2019 Cabernets received some astounding press, and Affinity was marked as our "entry level" offering per usual. It costs us less to farm than the mountain wines, so the price is less to you. Don't be taken in by the emperor's new clothes. I'm so looking forward to your comments in emails, texts and social media. 2019 Affinity: don't sleep on it.

VINYARDS: La Londe Estate Vineyard

APPELLATION: Coombsville District

COMPOSITION: 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petite Verdot, 5% Merlot,
1% Malbec

CASES PRODUCED: 2,303



2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay

Our Chardonnay program has continued to evolve and progress as we become increasingly focused on producing greatness in each of the wines we produce. After many years of primarily stainless steel fermentations, Jason and I have decided that we like the roundness and depth provided by fermenting our Chardonnay in neutral oak instead. That will be a notable difference discovered when tasting our 2019 Gap's Crown Chardonnay over previous vintages. Bill Price's singular vineyard has continued to grow in fame, and not just for its highly regarded Kosta Brown pinot noir offering. When asking for more tons of chardonnay this year, I was told that there were none to be had. After a slow start in our portfolio, the Gap's Crown Chardonnay has become highly allocated.

The abundant rains in the winter of 2019 and cold temperatures in the spring led to full canopy development, but very slow growth and ripening. Very little irrigation was needed for the growing season, and the high acidity of the site has presented itself in the wine. Classic aromas and flavors of Gap's Crown Vineyard emerge from the 2019 edition: smooth stream pebbles, orange rind, mint and a chalky salinity that is rarely present in domestic Chardonnays. This is a racy, vibrant wine that will benefit from cellaring, or a long decant when young, and will pair beautifully with oysters, shellfish, spicy Asian cuisine and charcuterie.

VINYARDS: Gap's Crown Vineyard
APPELLATION: Petaluma Gap
COMPOSITION: 100% Chardonnay
CASES PRODUCED: 191



2019 Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard

With the 2019 vintage release of our Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignon, we come to the end (at least for now) of our tenure with Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard owned by Peter Thompson. Peter is one of the best guys in the Napa Valley, and the quality of his vineyard is without question. Beginning with the 2012 vintage, we have produced eight world class wines from his vineyard near the summit of Diamond Mountain with tremendous critical acclaim. I stopped submitting the wine for review with the 2017 vintage simply because we make so little of the wine, and the track record is supreme.

Now that our estate vineyards on Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder are fully producing, my focus is there where we can control all of the farming decisions. We are going out with a BOOM in 2019 as this release is without doubt the finest edition we have produced. The 2019 Diamond Mountain District wine is black colored, deep and perfumed with loads of dark, floral tones, mineral, spice-box and graphite pouring out of the glass. On the palate, the profound structure is matched with layer after layer of luscious fruit and round, ripe tannins.

VINYARDS: Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard
APPELLATION: Diamond Mountain District
COMPOSITION: 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc
CASES PRODUCED: 331



2019 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard

Our Merlot is perhaps the wine that expresses the nature of Howell Mountain more than any other wine in the Craig portfolio. It is estate grown and estate bottled. Sourced primarily from our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard along the summit of Howell Mountain it also includes some Merlot from Block 3 on our Winery Estate Vineyard. We actually use some Cabernet Sauvignon from more elegant lots to soften this wine as it can be a bruiser at the outset.

"Our 2019 Howell Mountain Merlot was the "biggest" wine we have ever made at Robert Craig Winery. The lab numbers for complex anthocyanin (color and body) and tannin count were off the chart in 2019. Despite its size and gravitas, the 2019 Merlot has a lushness and supple quality that make it a joy to drink even while young, though cellaring will improve the wine for the foreseeable future. Deep cassis, blackberry, iron, lead pencil and Howell Mountain stones exude from the nose and expand on the palate. A very limited number of cases exist of what is perhaps the finest offering ever from our winery.

"I've been involved in the production of our Howell Mountain wines for eighteen years now, and I can say without hesitation that our 2019 Estate Merlot is truly a stand out.

VINYARDS: Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard, Winery Estate Vineyard

APPELLATION: Howell Mountain

COMPOSITION: 81% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Malbec

CASES PRODUCED: 162



2016 Robert's Block Cabernet Sauvignon Howell Mountain Winery Estate Vineyard

We are pleased to announce limited availability for our Robert's Block Cabernet 2016. We produce only one barrel, twenty-five cases, of this wine from a block of grapes on our Howell Mountain Winery Estate Vineyard that produces the darkest, most complex and intense wine vintage in and vintage out from any of our vineyards. It is only produced in exceptional vintages, and 2016 certainly fits that description. There will not be another offering until the 2019 vintage is released. Of all the great wines produced in the Napa Valley, this is one of the most rare collectibles. There is a three-bottle limit per customer.

VINYARDS: Winery Estate Vineyard

APPELLATION: Howell Mountain

COMPOSITION: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

CASES PRODUCED: 25



Visit Our New Home in Napa

We've moved! Visit our new location at 1553 2nd Street in downtown Napa.

We hope to see you soon at our new Napa Tasting Salon! When you read this... our remodel will (hopefully) be complete, and we are hosting guests at this charming new location on 2nd Street. Come taste our new releases and special library selections—members enjoy complimentary tastings. We can host you inside our salon, on the porch, or (very soon) on our outdoor patio. As always, we strive to offer a decidedly unhurried vibe, a place to unwind and take your time while you relax and catch up with the Craig Crew. Tastings are by appointment, so we can ensure you have plenty of time and space to relax.

Call 707.252.2250 or go to the VISIT page on robertcraigwinery.com to see all tasting options & make your reservation.

Mark Your Calendars

April 29	Virtual Event
May 2022	2021 Fleur de Craig Rosé <i>Mark your calendar for a little Spring Cheer: In May, our 2021 Fleur de Craig Rosé will be released to our members first! Watch your In Box, this quintessential summer wine always sells out in a hot minute.</i>
May 14	Opening Event for the new tasting room
June 17	Virtual Event



Robert Craig Wine List

SPRING RELEASES

2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay	\$58
2019 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$76
2019 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$108
2016 Robert's Block Cabernet Sauvignon	\$325

SUMMER RELEASES

2021 La Fleur Craig Grenache Rosé	\$32
2020 Howell Mountain Cuvée	\$50

CURRENT RELEASES

2019 Howell Mountain Estate Merlot	\$98
2019 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$129
2018 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$110
2018 Mount Veeder Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$100
2018 Howell Mountain Black Sears Vineyard Zinfandel	\$65
2017 "The Stick" Howell Mountain Estate Candlestick Ridge Vineyard	\$150
2018 Côte de Craig Howell Mountain Estate	\$90

10-YEAR LIBRARY RELEASE

2012 Howell Mountain Zinfandel, Black Sears Vineyard	SOLD OUT
2012 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$114
2012 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$162
2012 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	SOLD OUT
2012 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	SOLD OUT
2012 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$194
2012 Robert's Block Cabernet Sauvignon	\$398

LARGE FORMAT AVAILABILITY

2019 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$177 / 3.0L \$400
2019 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$283 / 3.0L \$615
2019 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$241 / 3.0L \$530
2018 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$245 / 3.0L \$540
2018 Mount Veeder Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Amentet Vineyard	1.5L \$225 / 3.0L \$500

MEMBER BENEFITS

All Wine Clubs are Completely Customizable

Craig Summit Society (4 cases per year) – 20% off + Complimentary Shipping on Reorders
Craig Premier Crew (2 cases per year) – 15% off + Half-Off Ground Shipping on Reorders
Craig Village & A La Mode Members (1 case per 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

VISIT OUR NEW DOWNTOWN NAPA TASTING SALON

Tastings available by appointment at our Downtown Napa Tasting Salon & Patio
1553 2nd Street, Napa, CA 94559
 Open Daily 10am – 4pm
 Call 707.252.2250 or Email: info@robertcraigwine.com



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