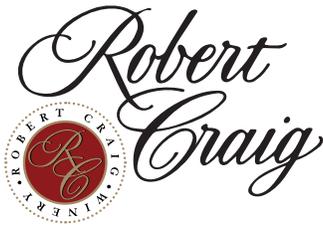


Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™

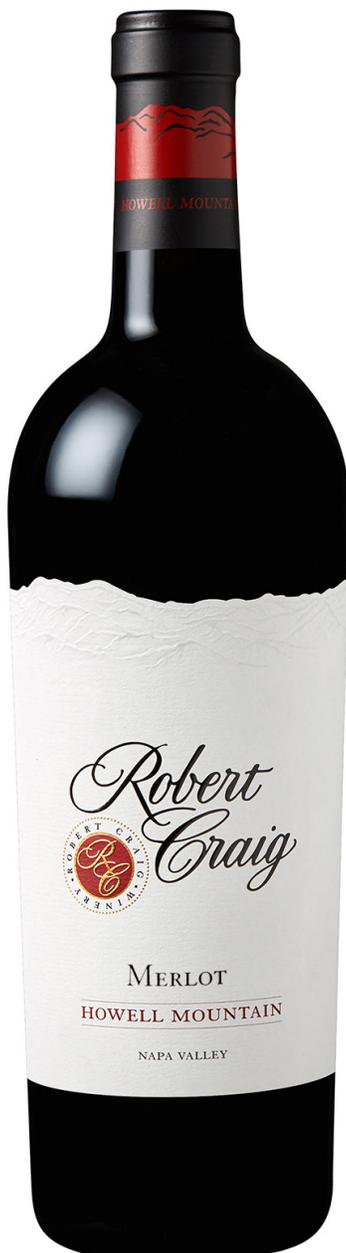


ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

2019 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT

Perhaps better than any other wine in our portfolio, this Merlot beautifully expresses the nature of Howell Mountain. It is estate grown and estate bottled. Sourced primarily from our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard along the summit of Howell Mountain it also includes Merlot from Block 3 on our Winery Estate Vineyard. We add a dash of 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. 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.



VINEYARDS

- Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard | 2250' Elevation
- Pure, white volcanic tufa soils provide excellent drainage while ensuring low yields and deeply flavored wine grapes
- Winery Estate Vineyard | 2300' Elevation
- Planted in 1997 on 110R rootstock; red volcanic & tufa soils
 - Yields average a meager 1.8 tons/acre giving fruit a rare power and expression of site
 - Soils are especially shallow, even for Howell Mountain

VINTAGE

- The 2019 vintage in the Napa Valley kicked off with substantial rain in the winter and spring.
- Budbreak and bloom arrived on time, but frost and wind at budbreak & flower reduced yields.
- The growing season was long and even without major heat spikes during the harvest, so color development was maximized.
- Yields were down significantly from the bountiful 2018 vintage, and several passes to drop fruit in the vineyard resulted in explosive flavors in the berries.
- Tannins were high, though ripe and round.

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

HARVEST DATES 10-14-19

AVERAGE SUGAR 25.8° Brix

TA 6.3g/L **PH** 3.71

ALCOHOL 14.95%

BARREL AGING: 18 mo. in 65% new French oak

CASES PRODUCED 162

PRICE CA SRP \$98.00