



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING | SUMMER 2023





Dear Cabernet Clubber,

Welcome to 2023 with Robert Craig Winery! It is my pleasure to invite you back through our virtual gates again as a partner in our business and our culture. Thank you for your continued support of our wines and philosophy here at The Craig. Your membership has become a ticket to an even more exclusive club this year as we are officially closing availability to our wine club and moving to a waitlist for new Craig collectors to ensure that we can properly supply those loyal mountain wine lovers that have been here through it all.

I was out for dinner recently at one of my favorite spots in Napa, Coles Chop House, after they had a huge weekend of business. Being with a group of Cabernet aficionados, I went straight to the American Reds section on the iPad (the digitized list being the only negative with that fantastic resto; printed copy please). I quickly scanned those producers that I would be interested in drinking, and it was as if my underwear had recently come out of a 500-degree dryer; things got tight. The prices were fairly staggering despite Cole's reasonable markup. I perused the non-corporate wineries who produce classically structured Cabernets or Bordeaux Blends, trimming from \$700 to \$500, a slew at \$400, finally arriving at \$220 for Robert Craig Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder. Well, I'll drink my own. Upon ordering, however, both were out of stock. As was the Forman, and the Togni and the Pilcrow. The Cabernets all shared a similar style (structured, classic), and each made the value proposition. These wines are go-to choices for many of the knowledgeable locals or visitors who know what's up when they receive the list. I'm sure they've already moved onto the Merlot section in search of proper bang for the buck.



As we move into this new release, more so than the fires and drought conditions reducing our wines' availability, it has been the increased demand of customers who want the highest quality wines that the Napa Valley has to offer without paying some insane, designer label mark up. It doesn't hurt that we are family owned, mountain grown, small production, organically farmed, 90% estate grown and that the accolades from the press continue to put our Cabernets at the top rung of Napa's quality scale regardless of price point. Oh, and we are nice people! The pandemic certainly flooded the market with more inventory than our mailing list and club could handle, but that challenge is fading, and we find ourselves falling short on the ability to fulfill our commitments to our Cabernet Club and to our restaurant partners in the national market. That means a change.

I commit to continuing to provide you with the wines and quantities that you have signed up for with your membership. Now may even be the time to level up given the scarce quantities moving forward. Beyond the benefits of discounts on our wines, experiences and events—and excellent service from our team here at the Craig—I personally feel the primary benefit of your Cabernet Club membership is access to these extraordinary wines. We continue to press forward.

Thank you for your support and enjoy these Spring Release wines. They are exceptional.

Love and Peace,

Elton Slone
President/CEO/Partner



A Note about the Wines

As we progress into this year's release of the 2020 vintage wines, we find ourselves raiding the perfectly cellared library here at Robert Craig Winery to ensure we can provide our members a proper allocation of exceptional mountain wines in a vintage challenged by late season fires and drought. Though we lost crops from our vineyards on the Western side of the Napa Valley – Mount Veeder, Spring Mountain and Diamond Mountain in 2020, we are fortunate to have produced some beautiful but limited Affinity and Howell Mountain wines from the premium blocks picked prior to the major wildfires that impacted late harvest, bringing a challenging closure to an otherwise stellar vintage in the mountains. As a substitute for this year's Spring Mountain Cabernet, we are thrilled to share with you for the first time two stunning selections – the 2017 and 2018 vintages – of the incredibly limited production of our friend Peter Thompson's Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard on Diamond Mountain.

Lastly, to continue in on our efforts to provide members not only the best provenance and experience with RCW, we also seek to provide you with the absolute best pricing we can in collecting these mountain treasures. Thus, the Diamond Mountain wines will remain at their current release prices as opposed to a small increase that is typical of our library. And to go further, Affinity will be reduced from \$76 to a retail price of \$70 for this period, less your applicable membership pricing.



2020 Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon

Our 2020 Affinity is a big wine that will reward patience. On our vineyards, the vintage was perfect until it wasn't. Cabernet ripened slowly and evenly in the moderate summer after an unusually cold and wet spring in Coombsville. The 40-plus-year-old vines that John Caldwell planted so long ago allow this wine to display a piercing sense of the stony hillside property that has always made the base for our Affinity blend. We harvested a first pass that yielded classic, structured Cabernet and Merlot with tiny bunches gently destemmed (we don't need additional tannin) before rolling through the optical sorter.

There was to be no second pass unfortunately due to the fires, so our 2020 Affinity production is tiny. You'll find the signature Coombsville roasted coffee bean, anise, dusty cherry and a touch of cigar box rising from the glass and flowing in the center of the palate. This is an explosive wine that is a bit constrained on release. A number of months in a dark, quiet place will yield wonderful results. Affinity rarely gets the respect it deserves because of the price point, but it is truly one of the great collectibles released in the Napa Valley each year.

VINEYARD: La Londe Lane Vineyard, Winery Estate Vineyard

APPELLATION: Coombsville and Howell Mountain

COMPOSITION: 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 4% Malbec

CASES PRODUCED: 1,818



2017 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2017 vintage Diamond Mountain Cabernet continues our partnership with Peter Thompson and his Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard at the summit of Diamond Mountain. We received only a few tons of this highly sought-after fruit from the classic 2017 vintage, so our production is tiny. The vineyard's white, powdery volcanic ash soils deliver wines of breathtaking intensity and longevity. Even with the enormity of the structure and fruit, there is grace and nuance in the finished wine.

With just 13 acres planted on the 60-acre site, the vineyard's unique combination of soils (volcanic ash and loam) and varying exposures (northeast, north and northwest) required custom rootstock and clonal selection to optimize use of the land and micro-climates within the site. The vineyard is composed of seventy-eight percent (78%) Cabernet Sauvignon, clones 337 and 15, both on 110r rootstock, eighteen percent (18%) Cabernet Franc of a proprietary clone on 110r rootstock, and four percent (4%) Petit Verdot clone 2 on 110r rootstock. Peter is one of the best guys in the Napa Valley, and the quality of this vineyard is without question. Beginning with the 2012 vintage, we have produced eight world-class wines from this site near the summit of Diamond Mountain with tremendous critical acclaim. We 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.

VINEYARD: Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard

APPELLATION: Diamond Mountain District

COMPOSITION: 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc

CASES PRODUCED: 361



2018 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2018 vintage in general is recognized for its wonderful balance of quality and quantity, where mild spring conditions gave way to a warm summer, setting the stage for a long and even ripening with beautiful integration of flavors, tannins, and overall structure. The intensity and site expression found on the high-elevation mountain vineyards of Diamond Mountain showcases nature's bounty on a spectacular vintage such as this. You would be hard pressed to find a better example of a well-integrated mountain wine than our 2018 production of Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon from the incredibly small lots of our partner Peter Thompson's Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard.

2018 Diamond Mountain District Cabernet is deep in color, perfumed with loads of dark, mountain 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, silky tannins aging gracefully as this wine begins its fifth year in the cellar.

VINEYARD: Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard

APPELLATION: Diamond Mountain District

COMPOSITION: 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc

CASES PRODUCED: 500



2021 Gap's Crown Chardonnay

Our Gap's Crown 2021 Sonoma Coast Chardonnay is without doubt our most successful effort ever in our pursuit to produce a world-class, cellar-worthy white wine. Our winemaker Jason Price has used more neutral barrel fermentation as opposed to stainless steel on the 2021 with increased pressure at the press and limited sur lie stirring. More body and depth, but also increased tension and precision in the wine.

2021 was a perfect vintage on the Sonoma Coast with very low yields, terrific acid structure and elevated intensity of flavor in the fruit. The wine is so young and tight currently that it is just beginning to show the tangerine rind, stone fruit and mineral notes for which Bill Price's Gap's Crown Vineyard is known. The presence of new French oak gently influences the wine with a kiss of spice and roundness.

As our production has dropped while demand has risen for this spectacular Chardonnay, we now have very little to share. We urge you to take advantage of your access to this wine and then blow the minds of your white Burgundy snob friends in the blind tasting. As always, your purchase goes to support the Tomales Bay Oyster Overpopulation Concerned Citizens Alliance.

- VINEYARD:** Gap's Crown Vineyard
- APPELLATION:** Petaluma Gap, Sonoma Coast
- COMPOSITION:** 100% Chardonnay
- CASES PRODUCED:** 234



Introducing Kelly Harden

Meet Kelly Harden, your membership manager and cellar curator extraordinaire! Kelly joined our small but mighty team in the spring of 2022 working tirelessly to ensure the mountain treasures of Robert Craig Winery travel safely from our cellars to yours while also delivering a stellar experience at the Tasting Salon and Mountain Estate, meeting our guests with a beaming smile and a gracious, warm and welcoming energy. Fun fact: Kelly, an intrepid adventurer with her husband Connor, is obsessed with all things Ireland. So much so that their beloved Golden Retriever (and adopted winery dog of the Craig) Ashford is named after a spectacular Victorian era castle in Ireland!

Please reach out to Kelly at kelly@robertcraigwine.com should you like to talk all things travel and of course, Craig!



Upcoming Dates

- April** Virtual Tasting with Elton and Guest, Date TBD
- April 30** Spring Release Closure
- May 6** Spring **Soiree** at the Salon
- May** Le Fleur Craig **Rose** Release, Date TBD
- June** Virtual Tasting with Elton and Guest, Date TBD

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

Robert Craig Wine List



SPRING RELEASES

2021 Gap's Crown Chardonnay	\$56
2020 Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon	\$70
2018 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$128
2017 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$128

LIBRARY RELEASE

2015 Gap's Crown Chardonnay	\$81.00
2015 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$100.00
2015 Howell Mountain Merlot	\$120.00
2015 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$132.00
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$145.00
2015 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$145.00
2015 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$157.00

LARGE FORMAT AVAILABILITY

2019 Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$165
2019 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$241 / 3.0L \$530
2019 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$262 / 3.0L \$550
2019 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$262 / 3.0L \$550
2019 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	1.5L \$283 / 3.0L \$615

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 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

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