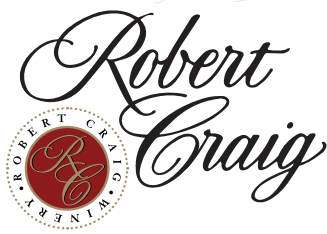


Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™

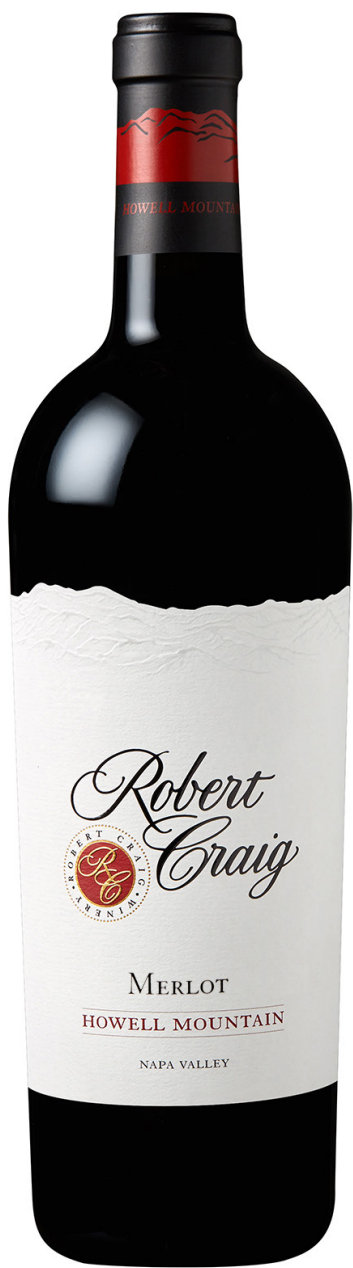


ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

2021 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT

In our experience, Merlot has the ability—perhaps more so than any other wine varietal—to display incredible site specificity...especially in elevated vineyards. Like the celebrated Right Bank Merlot of St. Emilion and Pomerol, Merlot grown on Howell Mountain has incredible structure and class, so much so that it's a waste to hide this wine in a Cabernet-dominant blend. This is not the jammy, overripe Merlot of the valley floor; instead the longer, cooler season produces potent color and tannins, all framed by Merlot's signature suppleness.

2021 was a shy bearing vintage, with yields down up to 60%. However, the mountain vines yielded fruit with a ton of charm in youth despite the decidedly opaque color and structure. All the 2021 Howell Mountain reds display a lovely dark floral quality. In this bottling it's joined by notes of dark mountain flowers, crushed volcanic rock, stony black fruits and wild blackberry.



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

- In 2021, the vines continued their recovery from the fires of 2020, a situation compounded by ongoing drought.
- Precision winemaking was crucial, especially in mountain vineyards, where yields were down a staggering 60%.
- Our vineyard management team did a masterful job managing the vineyards, ensuring the wines captured this shy-bearing vintage's undeniable charm along with its somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

BLEND: 88% Merlot%, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Malbec	BARREL AGING: 18 mo. in 50% new French oak
HARVEST DATES September 3-13, 2021	CASES PRODUCED 155
TA 6.0g/L PH 3.70	PRICE CA SRP \$98.00
ALCOHOL 14.8%	