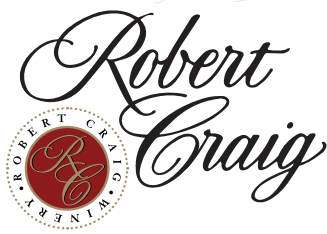


Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™

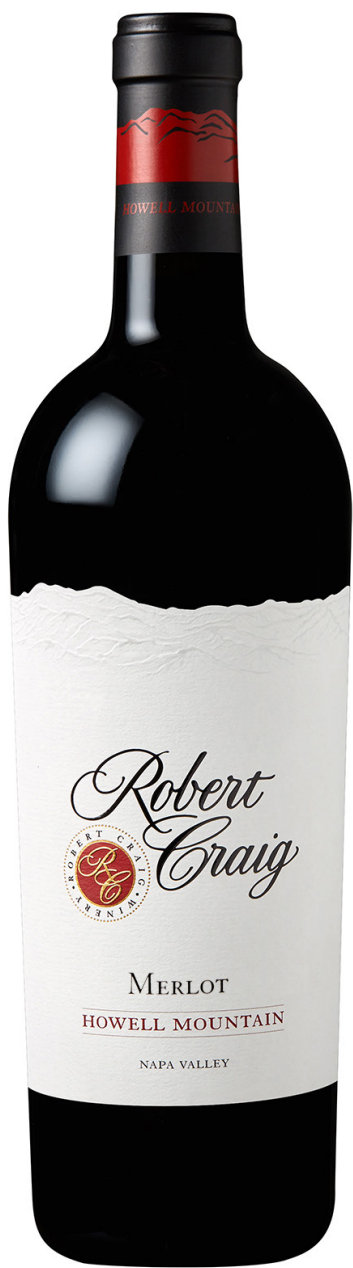


ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

2017 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. The Merlot was sourced entirely from our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard along the summit of Howell Mountain. We add a dash of Cabernet Sauvignon from more elegant lots to soften this wine as it can be a bruiser at the outset.

The 2017 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.



VINEYARD

- Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard 2250' Elevation.
- Pure, white volcanic tufa soils provide excellent drainage while ensuring low yields and deeply flavored wine grapes.
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VINTAGE

- 2017 kicked off with a wet winter and warm springtime that had the vines cranking.
- Summer saw 2 heat spikes, but the actual ripening period for Mountain Cabernet was fair, cool and prolonged in September.
- 2017 was ideal ... until the devastating fires ripped through Sonoma and Napa counties.
- For the fruit already safe in the cellar, wines extracted easily and exhibited purity of flavor and structure with freshness and finesse.

BLEND 80% Merlot%, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon	ALCOHOL 14.8%
HARVEST DATES 9/11/17 - 10/13/17	BARREL AGING 18 mo. in 50% new French oak
AVERAGE SUGAR 24.6 Brix	BOTTLED 4/25/19
TA 5.9g/L	CASES PRODUCED 326
PH 3.75	