

Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

2021 HOWELL MOUNTAIN CÔTE DE CRAIG

As we continue to replant the Syrah block on our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard, our ode to Northern Rhône's Côte-Rôtie (Syrah-based) is now more of an ode to Southern Rhône's Château Neuf-du-Pape (Grenache-based). Still possessing the dark, brooding depths of mountain grown Syrah, the tension, structure and explosiveness of the Grenache is taking first chair. Our case production remains tiny here at just eight barrels, so this wine is precious cargo. Deeply colored and structured for the long term, this Grenache-Syrah blend offers classic aromatics of fresh white pepper, grilled bacon, leather and thorny vine fruits.

The 2021 vintage was the smallest on record for either of our Howell Mountain vineyards as vines struggled to recover from drought and fire, and the few bunches on the vines were thinned even further by windy, cold weather at flower. The result of this skin-to-juice ratio is wine of depth and structure with explosive fruit. The wild, black and red thorny vine fruit flavors course through the wine on the palate and in the nose. The signature ground white pepper spice and thorny underbrush accents are omnipresent in the mid palate.



VINEYARDS

- Grown at 2300' feet of elevation on our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard.
- Acquired in 2015, along the northern summit ridge of Howell Mountain in close proximity to our Winery Estate Vineyard.
- Candlestick Ridge Vineyard is composed of huge boulders and ash-white soil that is volcanic tufa (tuff).
- Low nutrient base produces grapes of terrific intensity while ensuring low yields and deeply flavored wine grapes.

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, capturing this shy-bearing vintage's undeniable charm along with its somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

BLEND 56% Grenache, 44% Syrah

HARVEST DATES 8/26/2021-9/3/2021

AVERAGE SUGAR 25.1° Brix

TA 6.1 g/L **PH** 3.77

ALCOHOL 14.8%

BARREL AGING 9 months in French oak, 20% new

BOTTLING DATE 5/22/2023

CASES PRODUCED 157

PRICE CA SRP \$118.00