Cabernet Sauvignon
ELEVATED™

Robert Craig Winery

2023 AFFINITY
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The 2023 vintage of Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon is a watershed release for our attainable collectible. In an ever warming world, we went all in on mountain vineyards for the first time in order to achieve the concentration and freshness that has defined this Bordeaux blend for decades. For this vintage, we looked to our mountain estate vineyards on Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder to provide the backbone of the wine, with a sizable addition of fruit from Moon Mountain on the Sonoma Valley side of the Mayacamas spine near our Mount Veeder property. For the first time, our Affinity Cabernet Sauvignon can truly identify as a mountain wine. We sacrifice the singular AVA, but the quality takes a major leap forward.

We continue to produce a wine that is powerful and ageworthy, yet supple enough to be enjoyed upon release. More so than ever, Affinity provides savvy Craig lovers with a Napa Valley icon at a tremendous price point. The mineral, graphite and black thorny-vine fruits are all on full display in this mountain sourced wine. The tiny clusters that proliferated in 2023 at high elevations in the Napa Valley provide strength and structure in this deeply colored Bordeaux blend. The long, cool vintage was ideal for power and backbone. A more judicious use of new French Oak helps the dark fruit to pour from the glass and extend on the palate.

VINEYARDS

Napa Valley (59%):

- Winery Estate Vineyard - Howell Mountain: Yields average 1.8 tons/acre giving fruit power and expression of site.
- Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard - Howell Mountain: Pure, white volcanic tufa soils provide excellent drainage while ensuring low yields and deeply flavored wine grapes.
- Amentet Estate Vineyard - Mount Veeder: Sandy, gravel-based soils of shale with sandstone topsoil produce wines that are black in color with very low PH values and naturally high acids.

Sonoma County (41%):

- Additional fruit sourced from Moon Mountain in Sonoma Valley.

VINTAGE

- A historically cold start to the season warmed into a moderate summer and a cool fall resulting in one of the latest harvests in our history at RCW.
- The mountains did not enjoy the large yields of the valley floor in 2023, but the vintage quality and balance made up for the less than stellar revenue potential.
- Our vineyard management team did a masterful job managing the vineyards, ensuring the wines captured this cool, shy-bearing vintage's undeniable charm along with its somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

BLEND 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot

HARVEST DATES October 6-31, 2023

TA 6.0g/L PH 3.61

ALCOHOL 14.8%

BARREL AGING 18 months French oak; 65% new. Unfiltered & unfined.

BOTTLING DATES May 2025

CASES PRODUCED 4077

PRICE CA SRP $76.00

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