Robert Craig Winery

*Cabernet Sauvignon*
ELEVATED™

# 2024 CHENIN BLANC
## HOWELL MOUNTAIN ESTATE

Clarity is the word that comes to mind when we think of this Chenin Blanc, Howell Mountain Estate wine. There is such a linear display of the stony, red, volcanic Aiken soils present in the finished wine, that it would be possible to argue that this Chenin Blanc provides the most transparent look at our Howell Mountain soils, maybe even more so than our Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Since we are long time fans of Saumur and Loire Valley Chenin Blanc in general, that is the style we have pursued for this wine. Our Chenin Blanc is a blend of two clones, fermented in neutral oak and then kissed with a touch of new oak before resting back in neutral wood for a year prior to bottling. The goal is to retain the spectacular acidity, mineral display and sense of place in this rare white wine.

The 2024 Chenin Blanc Estate, Howell Mountain is a heart stopping debut for this program. In our 36 vintages here at Robert Craig Winery, we're not sure that we've ever produced such a singular wine. 2024 was a long, moderate growing season that we deemed as nearly perfect in our mountain vineyards. The fruit achieved optimal ripeness while retaining acidity and structure.

**We used equal parts of two separate clones to make the 2024 Chenin and ended up perfectly marrying austerity with vitality in the end. The 2024 finished wine displays white orchard flowers, citrus rind, mown grass and smooth stream pebbles throughout. The tension is ever present. We expect this wine to comfortably cellar for more than a decade after release. Cold water oysters, grilled seafood, charcuterie, and spicy Asian cuisine are perfect pairings for this racy, rare white wine.**

### ESTATE VINEYARDS

Winery Estate Vineyard

- Planted in 1997 on 110R rootstock; red volcanic & tufa soils
- Yields average a meager 2.1 tons/acre giving fruit a rare power and expression of site
- Soils are especially shallow, even for Howell Mountain

### VINTAGE

- 2024 was a lengthy, moderate vintage with nearly perfect ripening conditions
- A cold, wet winter allowed the vines to relax after years of drought stress
- Yields were slightly below average following some wind and cold weather at fruit set allowing for small, intensely flavored grape clusters.
- Things progressed in such a quiet, linear fashion in our mountain vineyards that we simply needed to allow nature to take its course in 2024.

BLEND 100% Chenin Blanc

HARVEST DATES 8/26/24

TA 6.7 g/L PH 3.46

ALCOHOL 13.5%

AGING 7 months in 100% neutral French oak

BOTTLING DATE May 2025

CASES PRODUCED 280

PRICE CA SRP $70.00

ESTATE GROWN & BOTTLED

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