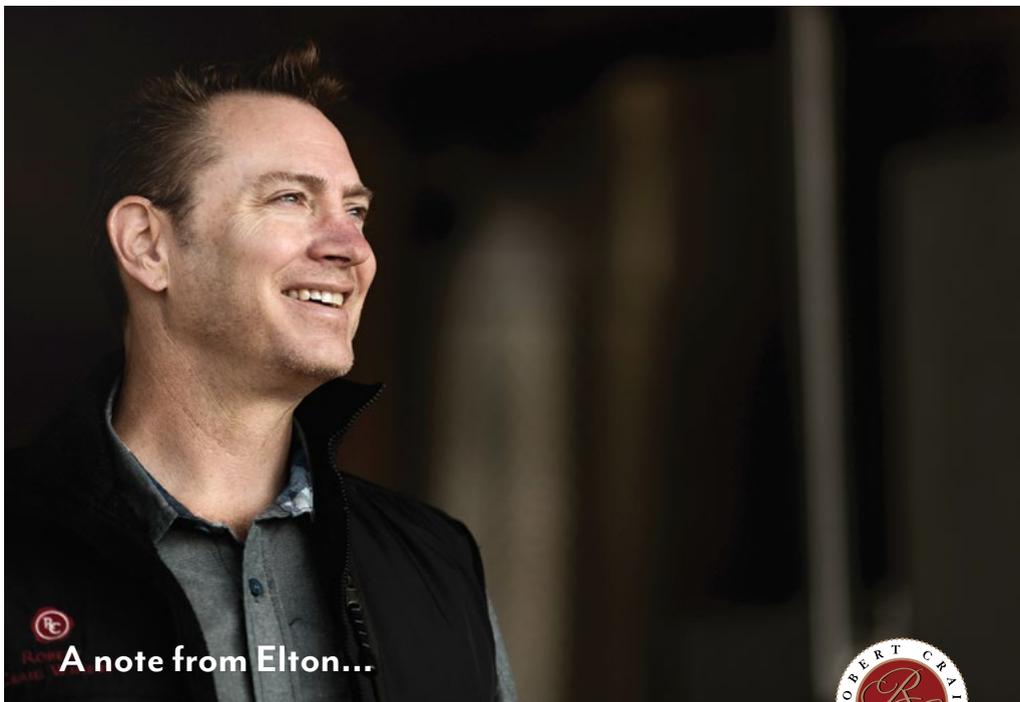


ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING | SUMMER 2019





A note from Elton...



Dear Craigers,

When the calendar turned to January 2019, no one was happier than I to shake off the slog that was 2018 – a year marked by a short vintage, wrangling with insurance over the 2017 wildfire damage, repairs to our Mount Veeder property, Bob and Lynn’s departure to Arizona, and my tonsillectomy and septum surgery near the end of December.

But we made it – albeit a little singed around the edges and noticeably lighter in the pocketbook. As spring approaches, Bob and Lynn are enjoying relaxed life in Tucson, our business is booming, and the outstanding 2016 vintage is on its way to you.

I am beyond excited to share with you the magnificent 2016 wines. First up this spring are three cabernets: 2016 Affinity from our Coombsville vineyard in southeast Napa, our Spring Mountain District, and the Diamond Mountain District. Second: our 2016 Merlot from Howell Mountain is just out of the gate, but I feel it is a definitive wine for us at the Craig.

The color on each of the 2016 wines is nearly black, and the tannins and acids provide firm structure for the fruit that pours from the glass and coats the palate. These wines are monumental and are balanced enough to enjoy while young if you can’t wait for a taste. Affinity will defeat wines more than five times the \$70 price in a brown bag competition. The Spring Mountain Cabernet is the most powerful, perfumed offering we have ever made due to more focus on the farming and lot selection. Though not part of your club shipment, Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard on Diamond Mountain shines in 2016 with the addition of Cabernet Franc in this potent cabernet. This wine continues to offer value despite the price increase, as we pay dearly for the fruit. The 2016 Howell Mountain Merlot is silky smooth and multi-layered. At only 150 cases produced, there is a short window to purchase this wine. If you have not yet tasted our Merlot from Howell Mountain, it is time to explore.

If you tucked away your allocation of the tightly-wound 2015 cabernet releases last year, your patience will be rewarded in spades. These wines are beginning to show their class and complexity as



they reveal themselves in bottle. Pop one open and see for yourself why esteemed wine critics Antonio Galloni, Jeb Dunnuck and James Suckling awarded the 2015 Craig releases 92-95 points. And now, with the 2016 vintage, there is simply no doubt in my mind that they are some of the finest wines we have ever produced at Robert Craig Winery, and the vintage is the best I have witnessed in my lifetime.

As a vintner I will continue to produce our wines in a style that features vineyard site and rewards cellar time. I’m sure we will continue to gather third party acclaim for what we do at Robert Craig, and I am certain that we produce some of the Napa Valley’s highest quality wines regardless of price point. The brown bag knows no master other than quality.

I’m looking forward to seeing you on the mountain or in our tasting salon this year. I can’t believe that January marks my 15th year at RCW and, for Rachel, her 16th. Winemaker Stephen Tebb has hit the decade mark, as have controller Kiersten Bjorkman and our national sales director Adam Glatt. Lori Reed is not far from ten years and KC Denham who started with us last year has fit right in with the company culture. Jason Price is working with Stephen on the wine every day in the wet and cold of Howell Mountain, so his four years must feel like ten at this point. The wines are an expression of the people and the vineyards, and we are lucky enough to have the best of both.

Thank you for your support of our winery on the mountain top. It means the world. Here’s to a 2019 filled with health, happiness and Mountain Cabernet.

Best,

Elton Slone
President/CEO/Partner



2016 AFFINITY ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

2016 marks the fourth vintage that the ever-popular Affinity release has been offered as an estate-grown wine – and the response from Craig fans has been remarkable. Harvested from the La Londe Vineyard in the Mt. George foothills just south of Stag’s Leap, this single-vineyard release captures the expression of this extraordinary vineyard site. The hillside vineyard bears just 2.8 tons/acre, offering a focused display of the alluvial, stony soils.

This beautiful estate-grown wine will show well upon release, but a year or two (or even a decade) in bottle will reveal additional complexity.

BLEND: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 7% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Malbec
CASES PRODUCED:3800

92 POINTS

“Ripe and plummy, with striking up-front fruit, the 2016 has a lot to offer, including tons of immediacy and sheer appeal. Super-ripe red cherry, raspberry jam, vanilla and sweet spice add to the wine’s racy, inviting personality.”

—Antonio Galloni, *Vinous.com*, 12/14/18



2016 SPRING MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Perched at 2000’ along the summit of Spring Mountain, Joan Crowley’s beautiful vineyard has produced extraordinary wines since our first Spring Mountain release back in 2005. This incredible site is primarily dry-farmed, reducing vigor and crop yield and resulting in small, flavor-packed berries. 2016 once again captures Spring Mountain’s round, plush blue notes so distinctive to the Cabernet grown on its slopes.

Although drinkable now, patience will bring rich rewards, adding layers of complexity and smoothing the edges of this inky, vibrant wine.

BLEND: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
CASES PRODUCED:1072

94+ POINTS

“The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain) is suave, silky and super-polished. Sweet red cherry, blood orange, mint, pomegranate and wild flowers give the 2016 a distinctly exotic quality that is hugely appealing. Medium in body and decidedly gracious, the 2016 speaks to finesse above all else. Although a few years in bottle will only help, the Spring Mountain is the most accessible of these 2016s.”

—Antonio Galloni, *Vinous.com*, 12/14/18



2016 GAP'S CROWN VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

At Robert Craig Winery we strive every year to make a white wine worthy of comparison with the finest in the world. Rather than a heavy, buttery Napa Chardonnay, we aim for “racy, mineral-laden, structured and precise” with this release. Zero malolactic fermentation keeps this wine crisp and bright — perfect for briny Tomales Bay oysters.

The Gap's Crown vineyard is situated on the western edge of Sonoma Mountain — a hillside vineyard with extremely stony soils and low yields that “crowns” The Petaluma Gap. This gap in the coastal mountain range is a fog and breeze pocket that draws cool ocean wind and fog from the Bodega Bay inland.

The 2016 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay offers up bright fruit aromas of citrus, fresh apple, pear and white peach, with subtle floral notes on the finish. The flavors are crisp and steely with juicy citrus fruit finishing with flint and mineral.

BLEND: 100% Chardonnay
 CASES PRODUCED: 245



WELCOME KC DENHAM

If you haven't yet met the newest member of the Craig Crew, we are pleased to introduce you to the amazing KC Denham. KC joined us last summer and has already earned the seal of approval from dozens of wine club members and their guests. Schedule an appointment to visit the Tasting Salon, where KC will be happy to pour you a glass or two of the latest Craig gems.

SAVE THE DATES | UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 11** **SPRING CLUB RELEASE**
- April 13** **ROBERT CRAIG WINERY SPRING RELEASE PARTY**
Tasting Salon, Downtown Napa
- April 18** **A TASTE OF MOUNT VEEDER**
Presidio Golden Gate Club, San Francisco
- May 10-12** **GEMS ON THE ROAD**
Chicago
- June 15** **TASTE OF HOWELL MOUNTAIN**
Charles Krug Winery, Napa
- September 7** **TASTE OF MOUNT VEEDER**
Hess Winery, Mount Veeder, Napa
- September 14** **CABERNET CLUB HARVEST PARTY**
Robert Craig Winery, Howell Mountain, Napa
- October 14** **FALL CLUB RELEASE**
- December 7** **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
Tasting Salon, Downtown Napa



SPOTLIGHT – LA LONDE “AFFINITY” ESTATE VINEYARD

Just south of Stag’s Leap in the Coombsville Appellation, nestled in the Mt. George Foothills on the eastern side of the Napa Valley, our La Londe Estate Vineyard has produced exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon since Bob Craig purchased the property back in 1993. For many vintages, La Londe provided the “backbone” of the Affinity release and was blended with select fruit purchased from growers around the valley.

However, it became clear that this property was more than worthy of a single-vineyard bottling, one that would capture the purity of site. Thus, as of the 2013 vintage, our Affinity release became an estate-grown, single-vineyard wine. La Londe Vineyard is a hillside, cane-pruned site that bears just 2.8 tons per acre, increasing concentration and structure in the fruit at harvest time. The 30-year-old vines allow a rare display of the volcanic, stony soils in the finished wines. Grapes are typically small, deeply red flavored, with a big backbone of acidity.

93+ POINTS

2013 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon – Robert M. Parker Jr., *The Wine Advocate* 2/27/17

93 POINTS

2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon – James Suckling, *jamesuckling.com* 1/27/17

94 POINTS

2015 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon – James Suckling, *jamesuckling.com* 12/21/17

93 POINTS

2016 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon – James Suckling, *jamesuckling.com* 11/19/18



ROBERT CRAIG WINE LIST

SPRING RELEASES

2016 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$70
2016 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$100
2016 Gap’s Crown Vineyard Chardonnay	\$55

CURRENT RELEASES

2016 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$120
2016 Howell Mountain Merlot	\$90
2016 Côte de Craig	\$90
2015 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$95
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$90 (last 50 cases)
2015 Howell Mountain Zinfandel	\$60

1.5 LITER MAGNUMS

	Ask about older vintages
2016 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$165
2016 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$225
2016 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$265
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2015 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$215

3 LITERS

	Very Limited
2016 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$395
2016 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$460
2016 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$480
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450
2015 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450

MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNTS | www.robertcraigwine.com

12-Bottle Members	20%
6-Bottle Members	15%
3-Bottle & A La Mode Members	10%

HOW TO ORDER

Visit our online wine shop at robertcraigwine.com

Contact us by phone at 707.252.2250 ext. 1 or 2
Email: sales@robertcraigwine.com

VISIT OUR DOWNTOWN NAPA TASTING SALON

Tastings available by appointment at Bar Craig
Mon-Sat 10am – 4pm;
Sun 11am – 4pm

Call 707.252.2250 ext. 1 or email lori@robertcraigwine.com

Tasting Fee \$25 pp

To inquire about membership, or upgrade your membership level, contact us directly 707.252.2250 x 2



WINERY EXCLUSIVE LIMITED RELEASES

To acquire, contact us directly at (707) 252-2250 x1 or x2 or log in to the CLUB ONLY section on our online wine shop at robertcraigwinery.com.

2016 DIAMOND MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Available Now

The 2016 vintage Diamond Mountain Cabernet continues our partnership with the sublime Andrew Geoffrey Vineyard at the summit of Diamond Mountain. We received only a few tons of this highly sought-after fruit from the perfect 2016 vintage, so our production is tiny at less than 300 cases. The vineyard's white, volcanic soils deliver wines of breathtaking intensity and longevity. Even with the enormity of the structure and fruit, there is grace and nuance in the finished wine.

96 POINTS

"Graphite, crème de cassis, pencil shavings and savory herbs all race out of the glass as this complex, multi-dimensional wine shows off its personality and pedigree. These volcanic, white ash soil at the southern fork of the appellation yield a Cabernet Sauvignon of real distinction. More than anything else, the 2016 offers striking vibrancy and detail for such a big wine."

—Antonio Galloni, *Vinous.com*, 12/14/18

2016 HOWELL MOUNTAIN ESTATE MERLOT

Available Now

The 2016 Howell Mountain Merlot is sourced primarily from a small section of our Candlestick Ridge Estate Vineyard along the northern boundary of the summit ridge of Howell Mountain. Volcanic, shallow soils and low yields lead to tiny berry size and intense flavors in the finished wines. For those of you who love the powerful, supple wines of Saint-Émilion and Pomerol, this is a Merlot for you. We blend 20% Cabernet Sauvignon into this wine from less tannic lots to help soften this wine. Just 146 cases made.



2018 "LA FLEUR" HOWELL MOUNTAIN ROSÉ

Coming Summer 2019

Our perennially popular Grenache rosé will be released in June — just in time to enjoy on long summer nights with friends. We only make 140 cases of this spectacular summer wine, so don't delay when the announcement goes out — this beauty sells out quickly.

2015 ROBERT'S BLOCK CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Coming Summer 2019

The Robert's Block release is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon sourced from the highest section of our Winery Estate Vineyard, where fruit is particularly sparse and intense, even by Howell Mountain standards. This block is difficult and expensive and, frankly, a bit of pain. But the wine makes it all worth it. A mere 25 cases were made in the 2015 vintage.



*Robert
Craig*



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

625 Imperial Way, Suite One
Napa, California 94559

robertcraigwinery.com

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@robertcraigwinery](#)