



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING | SUMMER 2018



## A note from Elton...



Dear Craig family,

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you back for another year in our Cabernet Club featuring transcendent Cabernet Sauvignons from our mountain and hillside vineyards in the Napa Valley.

In 2017 we saw fire and we saw rain. I watched a million dollars' worth of our Mount Veeder crop (uninsured) fall victim to smoke taint, and we nearly lost our Howell Mountain road due to excessive rains in the Spring. Albeit a tad poorer, we have come through it all stronger and wiser with your help and support.

The 2015 wines that you will receive this year are numerically (bonded molecule count, tannin, acidity, color) the largest that we have ever produced at Robert Craig Winery. I refused to dumb them down by leaving residual sugar in the must, or perform micro oxygenation to soften the wine or, god forbid, reverse osmosis to deal with VA that doesn't exist in our wines since they are not overripe.

Great wines should speak of a place *and* a vintage. For the first time since the release of the mammoth 2003 vintage, our 2015 wines will require a bit of patience. Right now, they are as welcoming as a barbed wire gate with snarling Dobermans on the other side. Give them 6 months to 35 years, and you will be rewarded. The 2015s are simply massive wines.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Napa this year, and I hope you enjoy a bountiful and Cabernet filled start to Spring.

Love and peace,

Elton Slone  
President/CEO/Partner



## 2015 MOUNT VEEDER CABERNET SAUVIGNON

After 22 years sourcing our Veeder Cabernet from the Pym Rae Vineyard, the 2015 will be our final bottling from the late Robin Williams' 19-acre property. Pym Rae is on the north end of the appellation, free from coastal influence, where the fruit develops incredible structure and purity. For now, we say a fond farewell to an outstanding property and old friend, while looking ahead to 2019, when we will introduce our first Cabernet from our new estate vineyard—newly christened “Amentet Vineyard”—which abuts the Pym Rae property. (Learn more on p. 8.)

Our 2015 Mount Veeder offering is a towering wine of tremendous tannin structure coupled with dense color. Classic Mount Veeder markers are present in force; dried cocoa, pencil shaving, cassis, and mountain violet are woven into this tightly wound wine. This Mount Veeder release is without doubt one of the most profound Cabernets that we have produced at Robert Craig Winery in terms of its size and power. If enjoying this wine young, a two-hour decant is recommended. The 2015 Mount Veeder will cellar comfortably for decades yet should start to show well as soon as 2020.

BLEND: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot | TA: 6.8g/L | PH: 3.64 | ALCOHOL: 14.8%  
CASES PRODUCED: 775

## 93+ POINTS

“From one of my favorite terroirs in the valley, the saturated purple-colored [wine] is a violet-tinged, blueberry, sage brush, charcoal and menthol-scented 2015 that offers full-bodied richness, a notable minerality, good mid-palate density and a beautiful finish. Closed, backward, yet impressively concentrated on the palate, it's a beautiful wine that needs to be forgotten for 4-5 years, and it should keep for two decades.”

—Jeb Dunnuck, [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com), 12/29/17



## 2015 AFFINITY ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Long a favorite of Craig fans, our Affinity release has evolved into a gorgeous estate-grown wine, now in its third vintage as a single-vineyard bottling from the La Londe Vineyard in the Mt. George foothills, just south of Stag's Leap. As a single vineyard release, we are able to capture the unique expression of this extraordinary site. Affinity is now farmed for higher stress levels, the cane-pruned 30-year-old vines bearing just 2.8 tons per acre, offering a focused display of the alluvial, stony soils on this hillside site.

As with our other 2015 Cabernets, Affinity is startling for its sheer size and weight. The older vines deliver classic black raspberry, licorice, espresso bean and crushed stones in the nose and on the palate. The tiny yields are responsible for the intensity of the color and structure this year. The Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Malbec help to give the Cabernet Sauvignon a lovely plushness and roundness in the middle. This beautiful wine should show well upon release, but a year or two (or a decade) of cellar time will help the wine show its best.

BLEND: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 4% Petit Verdot  
TA: 6.6g/L | PH: 3.63 | ALCOHOL: 14.8%  
CASES PRODUCED: 2900

### 94 POINTS

"Very pretty stones, oyster shell, blueberries and underbrush character. The palate is very composed with lots of bright, tangy fruit, grainy tannins and a minerally yet at the same time fruit-driven finish. A unique wine. ... Drink in 2020 even if delicious now."

—James Suckling, [jamesuckling.com](http://jamesuckling.com), 12/1/17



## 2015 GAP'S CROWN SONOMA COAST 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, if you will, 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 2015 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay offers up bright fruit aromas of citrus, fresh apple, pear and white peach along with hints of warm brioche and baking spice, 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  
TA: 8.0g/L | PH: 3.24 | ALCOHOL: 14.5%  
CASES PRODUCED: 526



We're excited to be working with Kyle Haraszthy, who's great-great grandfather planted the first vitis vinifera vines in Northern California. Today, Kyle continues planting seeds with our best customers in old fashioned reach-out-and-touch-someone style. We are lucky to have him on the Craig team, and yes, you'll have the chance to meet him this year.

## SAVE THE DATES | UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 24** Howell Mountain Bud Break Celebration  
Presidio Golden Gate Club, San Francisco
- April 14** Robert Craig Winery Spring Release Party  
Napa Valley Tasting Salon, Downtown Napa
- May 2-4** Mount Veeder Appellation on the Road  
Jonathan Club LA & Santa Monica; The Athenaeum Cal Tech, Pasadena
- May 11-13** GEMS on the Road  
Greenwich, CT & Boston, MA
- June 16** Taste of Howell Mountain  
Charles Krug Winery, Napa
- July 14 or 21** Craig Summer Party  
Details TBD, Napa
- August 4** Taste of Mount Veeder  
Hess Winery, Mount Veeder, Napa
- August 18-19** Alpine Society  
Details TBD, Napa
- September 22** Cabernet Club Harvest Party  
Robert Craig Winery, Howell Mountain, Napa
- December 8** Holiday Open House  
Napa Valley Tasting Salon, Downtown Napa





## SPOTLIGHT: AMENTET VINEYARD, MOUNT VEEDER

As we say farewell to Pym Rae Vineyard with the 2015 Veeder Cabernet release, we are excited to turn to our new estate vineyard, located just next door. Though we have internally called it “Wall Road Vineyard,” Elton has newly christened the property Amentet Vineyard, after the Egyptian Goddess of the West. With the “rebirth” of our Veeder Cab, Amentet (pronounced “AH-men-TETT”) seems the perfect patroness—the goddess of fertility and rebirth, who was often depicted with a hawk perched upon her head. Given the number of red tails spotted from our new vineyard, this seems particularly providential.

Winemaker Stephen Tebb and his crew have now worked with both the 2016 and 2017 fruit from the vineyard and are loving both its newness and its familiarity. The Amentet site was planted and managed by Brian Nuss — who farmed the neighboring Pym Rae vineyard for Robin for more than two decades — so it is no surprise that the resulting wines are quite similar. The beauty of this warmer, fog-free northern section of Mount Veeder is that the wines are free of any unwanted vegetal or rustic characteristics that can affect cooler climate sites to the south.

We expect very good things to come on Mount Veeder and look forward to sharing them with you.



## ROBERT CRAIG WINE LIST

### SPRING RELEASES

2015 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$70
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$90
2015 Gap's Crown Sonoma Coast Chardonnay	\$50

### CURRENT RELEASES

2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	\$52 (<15 cases left)
2014 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$90
2014 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$95 (<40 cases left)
2014 Howell Mountain Zinfandel	\$55
2015 Côte de Craig	\$90
2015 Howell Mountain Candlestick Ridge Vinyard Merlot	\$90

### 375ML BOTTLES

2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	\$26 (last of 375s)
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### 1.5 LITER MAGNUMS

Ask about older vintages

2015 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$165
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2015 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2014 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2014 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$215

### 3 LITERS

Ask about older vintages

2015 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$395
2015 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450
2015 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450
2014 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450 (last 2 bottles)
2014 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	<b>Sold out</b>

### MEMBERS ONLY DISCOUNTS

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

### HOW TO ORDER

Visit our online wine shop at [robertcraigwine.com](http://robertcraigwine.com)

Stop by our Napa Valley Tasting Salon:

625 Imperial Way  
Suite 1, Napa, CA.

Contact us by phone at 707.252.2250 ext.2

### VISIT OUR DOWNTOWN NAPA TASTING SALON

Tastings available by appointment at Bar Craig

Mon-Sat 10am – 4pm;  
Closed Sundays until further notice

Call or email us at [sales@robertcraigwine.com](mailto:sales@robertcraigwine.com)

Tasting Fee \$25 pp

Complimentary for Cabernet Club members.

To inquire about membership, or to upgrade your membership level, please contact us directly at 707.252.2250 ext.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.

### 2015 DIAMOND MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

#### **Available now**

Our 2015 bottling of Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is again sourced from Andrew Geoffrey's extraordinary 13-acre vineyard, perched at 1850' near the summit of Diamond Mountain. The soils of pure white volcanic ash yield a wine of exceptional color and depth. Our 2015 wine features, for the first time, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot — both from the same block as our Cabernet. The result is additional dimension, class and depth in this blockbuster wine.

## 95 POINTS

"... This deep ruby/purple-colored beauty is one of the more opulent, hedonistic and textured in the lineup. Currants, chocolate, dried earth, and spice-box nuances all emerge from this full-bodied, plush, incredibly sexy Cabernet that's going to cruise for 15+ years."

—Jeb Dunnuck, [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com), 12/29/17

### 2015 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT

#### **Available now**

Our Howell Mountain Merlot is a fierce testament to what is possible for one of the great Bordeaux varieties when grown on the sparse, rocky soils of Howell Mountain. Dense mouthfeel combines with deep color, tremendous flesh and powerful structure. The 2015 edition sees the addition of the dark, intense fruit from our Candlestick Ridge Vineyard that provides another level of complexity and body. This rare wine should cellar comfortably for decades to come, but the fruit and exuberance makes our Howell Mountain Merlot a treat to enjoy even while young.



### 2017 LA FLEUR HOWELL MOUNTAIN ROSÉ

#### **Coming Summer 2018**

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.

### 2014 ROBERT'S BLOCK CABERNET SAUVIGNON

#### **Coming Summer 2018**

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 in the ass. But the wine ... oh the wine! Just 50 cases were made. Available in single bottle, single bottle in a wood box, and three bottle wood boxes.



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