



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING 2017





## A MESSAGE FROM ELTON ...

Dear Craig Fans,

March has arrived in the Napa Valley along with an end to #rainpocalypse2017. Not only has the sunshine and brilliant mustard bloom returned to the vineyards, but we have been able to return to the deck outside at Compadres to engage in intensive quality control sessions related to tequila and wine. Just yesterday we discovered that our 2014 Napa Valley Cabernet is showing REALLY WELL. What a tremendous year we have in store for our club members with the release of our 2014 vintage wines.

The 2014 vintage was remarkable in that bud break, flower and fruit set all occurred very early in the spring. This is welcomed in our high elevation vineyards that are always behind the valley floor in maturity as the rains of late October and November approach. With a long, moderate summer and fall thereafter, the 2014 vintage will prove to be a classic one for the Napa Valley. The mountain vineyards will be the stars of the show.

Our 2014 Howell Mountain Merlot and the 2014 Diamond Mountain District Cabernet Sauvignons were first out of the gate in release this year, and those of you who have tried the wines have remarked consistently on the weight, depth and complexity of these two rare mountain red wines. I only wish we had more. We have a tiny amount left of both that we are selling out of our tasting room on Howell Mountain. You can always give us a call and try to talk us out of a bit, but don't wait long.

We are very excited about the 2014 Spring releases: the 2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and 2014 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon. Turn the page to learn more about these beautiful expressions of an outstanding vintage.



Along with the sunshine come the calls for the release of the 2016 La Fleur Rosé, crafted from an early pick of Grenache from our new Candlestick Ridge estate vineyard on Howell Mountain. Hang in there until late May. Also of note will be the debut of our Grenache/Syrah blend from old vines at 2200' on Howell Mountain. Our Côte de Craig is a stunning wine that will be offered to only a few.

Over the last two years we have focused on vineyard acquisition and development while continuing to turn up the quality levels in our wines. Making expensive changes in farming and in winery equipment to pursue more depth and integrity in our wines is always exciting at the time of implementation, but damn if we don't have to wait three years after that to demonstrate that progress to the world when we release the wines. These 2014 wines represent a great deal of hard work three years ago, and we continue to push even harder. Thank you for joining us on this mountain wine journey. We could not do it without you.

Best,

Elton Slone, President/CEO/Partner



SPRING 2017 RELEASE

## 2014 AFFINITY ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

For the second vintage, we are pleased to present Affinity as a 100% estate grown, single-vineyard bottling from La Londe Vineyard, our estate vineyard in the Mt. George foothills just south of Stag's Leap. While the soul of Affinity has always come from this site, by transitioning Affinity to a single-vineyard release we are able to capture the essential, focused identity of this extraordinary site.

In recent years, the hillside vineyard has been farmed for higher stress levels and better uniformity throughout. The cane-pruned 30-year-old vines bear just 2.8 tons per acre, offering a rare display of the volcanic, stony soils in the finished wine. The structure in the 2014 is incredibly dense, coming from some of the smallest berries we've ever received from La Londe – a result of early budbreak, extended hang time and the third year of a major drought. The 2014 has tremendous depth and concentration, with opulent black raspberry and black currant flavors wrapped in fragrant aromas of licorice, incense and spice box.

APPELLATION: Napa Valley

BLEND: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petite Verdot, 5% Merlot, 3% Malbec, 2% Cabernet Franc

TA: 6.3G/L | pH: 3.66

CASES PRODUCED: 4218

## 92 POINTS

"This winery has been consistently excellent throughout my tastings in Napa, going back many, many years. They have also kept a lid on pricing, which remains realistic and consumer friendly. .... Delicious black raspberry and blackcurrant fruit, some spice box, licorice and incense are all present in this supple-textured, medium to full-bodied, opulent wine, which is sexy, lush and ideal for drinking over the next decade or more. The color is healthy dense and purple, and the wine full-bodied and textured, with a beautiful finish and real harmony. Drink it over the next decade."

– Robert M. Parker, Jr., *The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 29, 2016





## Cabernet Sauvignon ELEVATED™

SPRING 2017 RELEASE

### 2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MOUNT VEEDER

After more than two decades working with the Pym Rae Vineyard, this will be our second to last vintage sourced from the late Robin William's 19-acre property. Found on the north end of the appellation, this area is free of coastal influence, developing marvelous structure without sacrificing purity of fruit. This is the second vintage farmed by Pete Richmond of Silverado Farming Company. His grasp of the vineyard has been profound, and new farming methods have improved the uniformity of vine nutrition, causing very low pH, high acid and gorgeous tannin structure.

This release is exceptionally polished and dense. More inviting in youth than the 2013, the 2014 Mount Veeder is plush and rich, with deep, dark cassis, cocoa flake and mountain floral tones, with a broad polished middle palate and a long, lingering finish. This wine has tremendous balance to enjoy young, but the 2014 Mount Veeder will cellar beautifully for years to come.

APPELLATION: Mount Veeder

BLEND: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 1% Malbec

TA: 6.6g/L | pH: 3.68

CASES PRODUCED: 2287

### 95 POINTS

"The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Mt. Veeder comes from a vineyard once owned by the late Robin Williams called Pym Rae (now owned by the Tesson family from Bordeaux) that sits at an elevation of 1,800 feet. Blueberry, blackberry and cassis are all present in this full-bodied wine that displays the high-elevation bluer fruits that Mt. Veeder can provide. There is a floweriness and full-bodied richness, big extract, but great balance. There is no rusticity. This beauty should drink well for at least 25-30 years."

—Robert M. Parker, Jr., *The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 29, 2016





## SPOTLIGHT

### WALL ROAD ESTATE VINEYARD, MOUNT VEEDER

After 22 vintages of purchasing fruit from Pym Rae Vineyard on a handshake contract with the late actor Robin Williams, it was a bit of a heartbreak to learn that the property had been purchased by the Tesson family of Chateau Pontet Canet fame. But fortune soon smiled upon The Craig when we were given the opportunity to acquire the property that sits literally adjacent to the Pym Rae site that Bob Craig helped develop nearly 30 years ago. Perched at 1,700' of elevation along Wall Road on the north end of the Mount Veeder AVA, our new 6.5-acre Mount Veeder estate vineyard is destined for greatness.



So, while we will be sad to say goodbye to the incredible Pym Rae fruit after the 2015 vintage, it was a joy this past fall to receive the first harvest from our new immaculate young "Wall Road Estate Vineyard" in 2016. Our new vineyard was planted and managed by Brian Nuss who farmed the neighboring Pym Rae vineyard for Robin for more than two decades, and it is no surprise that the resulting wines are so similar. The sandy, gravel based soils of shale with a sandstone topsoil produce wines that are black in color with very low pH values and naturally high acids. A perfect combination for longevity. 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 wish our new Chateau Pontet Canet neighbors "Bon Chance!" with Robin's former estate next door ... while we look to continue our legacy of Mount Veeder Cabernet greatness.

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## CLUB ONLY RELEASE

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### 2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON, DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

We were blown away when we first tasted the 2014 bottling of our Diamond Mountain Cabernet ... and it appears the wine critics agree. The wine is again sourced from the dramatic Andrew Geoffrey 13-acre vineyard, perched at 1850' near the summit of Diamond Mountain. The soils of pure white volcanic ash yield a wine of amazing color and depth.

There are just a few cases left of this extraordinary wine here at the winery. Contact Rachel directly at (707) 252-2250 x2 to acquire, or log in to the CLUB ONLY section on our online wine shop. **CASES PRODUCED: 175**

**94 + POINTS** "A masculine, muscular wine with sensational extract and notes of ... blackberry, cassis, earth and volcanic embers, this inky ruby/purple-colored wine is locked and loaded. Nevertheless, it is a long-term proposition, even for a 2014, as I would suggest five or more years of bottle age. It is a big, strong, powerful effort to drink between 2020 and 2035+."

– Robert M. Parker, Jr., *The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 29, 2016



## VALENTINE'S REDUX

It was back to Napa Valley with a sold out affair at Celadon Restaurant in Napa. Long a Craig favorite, the intimate setting was the perfect backdrop for our annual Valentine's Dinner. A 10-year retrospective of our 2007 wines, including the Zinfandel and Chardonnay, and the debut of the 2014s set the stage for an evening already filled with warm connections and conversation. Perhaps you might join us next year!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

Spring Party at the Craig Tasting Salon

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

Taste of Howell Mountain at Krug Winery

**SATURDAY, JULY 15** (Club Only)

Summer in the Vineyards at our La Londe Estate

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

Mount Veeder Appellation Tasting at Hess Winery

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

Alpine Society - details TBD  
(Alpine Society Members Only)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9** (Club Only)

Cabernet Club Harvest Party at our  
Howell Mountain Estate

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Holiday Open House at the Craig Tasting Salon





## Cabernet Sauvignon ELEVATED™

### ROBERT CRAIG WINE LIST

#### SPRING RELEASES

2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$70
2014 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$90

#### CURRENT RELEASES

2014 Gap's Crown Chardonnay	\$50
2013 Howell Mountain Zinfandel	\$55
2014 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon	\$52
2016 La Fleur Craig Rosé <i>May Release</i>	\$28
2015 Côte de Craig <i>August Debut</i>	\$90
2013 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (2014 release: Fall '17)	<i>Sold Out</i>
2013 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (2014 release: Fall '17)	<i>Sold Out</i>

#### 375ML BOTTLES

2013 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon <i>Last Vintage</i>	\$35
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#### 1.5 LITER MAGNUMS — *Ask about older vintages*

2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$165
2014 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2014 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2013 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$205
2014 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay	\$115

#### 3 LITERS — *Ask about older vintages*

2014 Affinity Estate Cabernet Sauvignon	\$395
2014 Mount Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450
2014 Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$450
2013 Spring Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon	\$425

#### 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, or fax 707.252.2639.

### 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](mailto:lori@robertcraigwine.com)

Tasting Fee \$25 pp

Complimentary for Cabernet Club members.



[robertcraigwinery.com](http://robertcraigwinery.com)



To inquire about membership, or to alter your membership level, please contact us directly at 707.252.2250 ext. 2.