

*Cabernet Sauvignon*  
ELEVATED™



ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## 2016 HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**ABOUT THIS WINE** This wine is produced from our 9.5-acre estate vineyard, perched along the summit ridge of Howell Mountain at 2300'. The Howell Mountain AVA begins at 1400 feet and includes vineyards that sit above the inversion layer and fog line. Considered our flagship release, the Howell Mountain Cabernet is the defining wine of our portfolio — a rare and extraordinary wine from a superb vineyard. Though the tannin structure is off the charts each year, the tannins are supple and round, allowing a measure of grace in youth for such a long lived wine

**VINEYARD** Planted in 1997 on 110R rootstock which fares well in stony soils, our estate vineyard is showing the vine maturity in the finished wines. The red volcanic and tufa soils give this Cabernet a wild, bramble berry character, coupled with touches of warm red stones and spice. Of all of the vineyards we own and manage, the variation in soils and microclimates within this small property make it the most challenging to farm. The yields are on average a meager 1.8 tons to the acre, but the fruit possesses a rare power and expression of site. Soils are especially shallow, even for Howell Mountain, and the vines must work through the rocky soils to seek moisture. Since 2009 we have been converting the site to cane pruned so that each vine can have an individual plan for the amount of crop it will need to ripen. We call this wine our “blood from the stones” for a reason.

**VINTAGE** 2016 in Napa Valley was considered an “exceptional vintage,” with ideal growing conditions, moderate yields and superb wine quality. The early, moderate weather and lack of significant heat events made for one of the best quality vintages of recent memory. Compared to the previous four vintages, 2016 saw wetter spring soil conditions, requiring careful canopy maintenance. Yields were moderate to below average going into harvest. Tannin quantity was overall slightly low, but tannin quality is excellent.

The red volcanic and tufa soils give our Howell Mountain Cabernet a wild, bramble berry character, coupled with touches of warm red stones and spice. The 2016 vintage offered generous black cherry and high-toned floral notes, with hints of crushed stone and graphic. The firm structure offers classic concentration and poise.

**BLEND:** 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot

**HARVEST DATES:** September 16-October 11, 2016

**AVERAGE SUGAR:** 24.9° Brix | **TA:** 6.6g/L | **PH:** 3.68 | **ALCOHOL:** 14.8%

**BARREL AGING:** 18 mo. Chateau-style French oak; 80% new/20% 2nd yr.  
Unfiltered & unfined.

**BOTTLING DATE:** May 26, 2018

**CASES PRODUCED:** 1843 | **PRICE:** CA SRP \$110.00

