

2017 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SPRING MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CABERNET SAUVIGNON



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (89%), Cabernet Franc (11%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 70% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.6% alc/vol | TA: 5.8 g/L | pH: 3.77

VINTAGE: The 2017 harvest was the first in the area following a 5 year drought. The soils and water table had been replenished and the vines took off early in the season and weather patterns were about normal until late August. In early September heat spikes hit the valley and set record or near record temperatures. With plenty of water available most vineyards were heavily irrigated and the temperatures cooled in mid-September to more normal levels. The quantity of grapes was quite low but quality looks to be excellent. A huge wildfire at the end of harvest threatened vines that still had fruit but luckily the vast majority of grapes were already safely in the winery for the year.

TERROIR: The Crowley vineyard is a close fit for the mountain Cabernet portfolio from the highest elevations of Napa Valley. Overlooking St. Helena from its perch at 2,000 feet, this vineyard's rocky volcanic soil, varied hillside exposures, and moderate climate produce densely concentrated wine grapes. The mountain is cooled by afternoon breezes from the nearby Pacific Ocean, creating moderate daytime temperatures and cooler nights that allow grapes to ripen slowly without pushing high alcohol and sugars. Biodynamically farmed.

TASTING NOTES: The 2017 Spring Mountain is savory and pleasantly balanced, opening with dark fruit and white floral notes that give way to a palate filled with jam, preserves and a kiss of vanilla. Savory cooked tomato and boysenberry rip nicely on the mid-palate and carry through to the long lush, finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 95 pts JamesSuckling.com

ABOUT ROBERT CRAIG WINERY: With a passion for Napa Valley Mountain Cabernet, Bob Craig founded his eponymous winery on Howell Mountain with three friends from business school. In 2004, CEO Elton Slone joined the winery and became a full partner in 2007. Following Bob's retirement and departure from the wine business in 2012, Slone has continued to move the business forward with the other three founding partners. Known for producing small-lot, site-expressive wines from high elevation vineyards, Robert Craig Winery consistently garners high scores and positive accolades from the wine press.

