

# 2017 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## "THE STICK" RED BLEND



<b>WINEMAKER:</b>	Jason Price
<b>REGION:</b>	Napa Valley, California
<b>VARIETALS:</b>	Cabernet Sauvignon (60%), Merlot (30%), Cabernet Franc (10%)
<b>MATURATION:</b>	18 months in 70% new French oak
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	14.8% alc/vol   TA: 6.3 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, in early September, heat spikes hit the valley and set 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 is excellent. 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:** Just down the road from the estate, Candlestick Ridge is the northernmost vineyard in the Howell Mountain AVA and is slightly warmer than the summit ridge where the Winery Estate vineyard lies. Candlestick is influenced by warm air from Pope Valley to the east and - at its slightly lower elevation - it is protected from the constant wind that hits the ridge line. The big subsurface boulders were removed during the replanting, leaving thin tufa soil on top of a rocky volcanic bedrock.

**TASTING NOTES:** The 2017 The Stick, a Cabernet Sauvignon blend, is dense, powerful and beautifully concentrated. The nose is perfumed with luxuriant aromas of black currant, boysenberry, cedar box and Herbes de Provence. The intensely layered palate excites with cassis, plum, and graphite. Rich and seductive with a velvety texture finishing long and perfumed.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 93 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.

