

2018 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY AFFINITY



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (83%), Merlot (9%), Petit Verdot (2%), Cabernet Franc (2%), Malbec (1%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 75% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.67

VINTAGE: February saw abundant rains, followed by lots of filtered light in spring and early summer. Both bud break and flowering occurred a bit late, but under ideal weather conditions, creating plentiful and even fruit set. Summer brought generous sun during the day and cooler marine influences, virtually uninterrupted by major heat spikes. The relatively mild summer followed by extended fall sunshine and moderate heat created near-ideal conditions for winemakers to allow their fruit to accumulate flavor complexity with gradual increases in sugar levels. Volume is looking great, up 20-30% increase over average crop quantity.

TERROIR: Just south of Stag's Leap, nestled in Coombsville's Mt. George Foothills on the eastern side of the Napa Valley, the La Londe estate vineyard has produced exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon for the Robert Craig portfolio since Bob Craig purchased the property back in 1993. As a hillside, cane-pruned site that bears just 3.5 tons per acre, the 30-year-old vines allow a rare display of the volcanic, stony soils in the finished wines. Grapes are small, deeply black flavored, and undeniably racy with a big backbone of acidity.

TASTING NOTES: The 2018 edition of Affinity is dark black with pure cassis and espresso bean coming through the wine, which remains supple despite the high tannin count. The additional Bordeaux varieties help the Cabernet to unlock and show itself fully. As always, the Affinity Cabernet represents one of the single best bargains for collectible, age worthy Napa Valley Cabernet.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 93 pts Vinous, 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.

