

# 2018 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## HOWELL MOUNTAIN ZINFANDEL



**WINEMAKER:** Jason Price  
**REGION:** Napa Valley, California  
**VARIETALS:** Zinfandel  
**MATURATION:** 18 months in 60% new French oak  
**ANALYSIS:** 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.3 g/L | pH: 3.57

**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.

**TERROIR:** Black Sears has “King of the Mountain” bragging rights on Howell Mountain - topping out at 2,400 feet, making it officially the highest vineyard on the mountain. The vineyard is located just past the gate of our Howell Mountain estate. And we now surround it - literally - having purchased the vineyard just on the other side of it as well. For 25 years, winemakers have clamored for the Zinfandel grown here: both biodynamic and organic, the site is dry farmed and the vines pruned in the old world style with no trellising. Zinfandel thrives in the mountain’s well-drained, rocky volcanic soils and moderate climate.

**TASTING NOTES:** True to its Howell Mountain pedigree, the 2018 vintage is beautifully clean and focused with boysenberry and bramble berry on the nose and palate wrapped in subtle pepper spice. This Zinfandel is balanced and elegantly structured through the finish.

**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.

