

2019 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

GAP'S CROWN VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Sonoma Coast, California
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 6 months in 40% stainless steel, 60% in 10% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.8 g/L | pH: 3.37

VINTAGE: 2019 was a perfect year to grow Chardonnay at the top of the Petaluma Gap. Budbreak and set were early, and the growing season was long and mild. Ample Spring rains allowed the vines to relax while producing a much smaller yield than the bountiful 2018 vintage. The growing season was long and even without major heat spikes during the harvest. Despite the low yields, several passes to drop fruit in the vineyard resulted in explosive flavors in the berries. The 2019 has a wonderful roundness in texture with a brace of acid to keep the wine lively on the palate.

TERROIR: Gap's Crown Vineyard is owned by Bill Price. Situated on the southern end of Sonoma Mountain on the west side, the 138-acre hillside vineyard has extremely stony soils and low yields. Known as "The Petaluma Gap," this area is a fog and breeze pocket that is unique in the Sonoma Coast. Cool temperatures, low pH values and high natural acidity produce wines of truly stunning vibrancy.

TASTING NOTES: A judicious amount of new French oak was involved to round the shoulders a bit, but this Chardonnay maintains its vibrant edge. Orange rind, smooth stream pebbles and the chalky soils of the vineyard all make an appearance in the glass. Showing beautifully now but will easily handle fifteen to twenty years in the cellar.

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.

