

2019 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

HOWELL MOUNTAIN CUVÉE



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (67%), Merlot (23%), Malbec (7%),
Petit Verdot (3%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 50% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 5.5 g/L | pH: 3.67

VINTAGE: The beginning of the 2019 growing season was defined by copious rainfall and late soil moisture. The long, warm summer saw very few extreme heat events, with foggy mornings setting the stage for vibrant and expressive wines. The long, relatively mild finish to the season, not without its moments of unpredictability, helped to preserve freshness and finesse in the fruit with abundant hang time teasing out great color, structure and soft tannins. Volume is looking to be about average to a little less than average. All in all, exceptional fruit with bright acidity and ample texture promises an amazing vintage.

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: A higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon has found its way into this wine that is dark, deep, nuanced and supple. Sourced from young vines on the Candlestick Ridge Vineyard, the 2019 HMC displays immediate Howell Mountain power in the glass with lavender, thorny fruits and mineral at the fore.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 92 pts Vinous

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.

