

2020 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

HOWELL MOUNTAIN CUVÉE



WINEMAKER:	Jason Price
REGION:	Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS:	Cabernet Sauvignon (65%), Merlot (33%), Malbec (2%)
MATURATION:	18 months in French oak (20% new)
ANALYSIS:	14.8% alc/vol TA: 6.0 g/L pH: 3.68

VINTAGE: The 2020 vintage on Howell Mountain was marked by a cool, windy start which hindered overall yields. The long, moderate growing season that followed was interrupted by an early heat spike in September that made for an historically early harvest for portions of our two estate vineyards on the summit ridge. The small amount of fruit that was harvested in the first pass proved deep in color with classic structure. The Cuvée is primarily sourced from Candlestick Ridge Vineyard, but the 2020 also includes lots from our Winery Estate. Following our first harvest pass in mid- September, we were overtaken with wildfires on Howell Mountain, losing more than 85% of the potential harvest; this small amount of terrific wine is a treasure to us at Robert Craig Winery.

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 2020 HMC displays immediate Howell Mountain power in the glass with lavender, thorny fruits and mineral at the fore.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: This vintage not yet rated. Last vintage: 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, becoming a full partner in 2007. Following Bob's retirement and departure from the wine business in 2012, Slone continued to move the business forward with the three remaining founding partners. Known for their small-lot, site-expressive wines from high elevation vineyards, Robert Craig Winery consistently garners high scores and positive accolades from the wine press.

