

# 2019 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## “THE STICK” CABERNET BLEND



<b>WINEMAKER:</b>	Jason Price
<b>REGION:</b>	Napa Valley, California
<b>VARIETALS:</b>	Cabernet Sauvignon (75%), Merlot (13%), Malbec (9%), Petit Verdot (3%)
<b>MATURATION:</b>	18 months in 60% new French oak
<b>ANALYSIS:</b>	14.8% alc/vol   TA: 5.7 g/L   pH: 3.72

**VINTAGE:** The 2019 vintage was close to perfection for the Candlestick Ridge Vineyard (“The Stick”), featuring a long, moderate growing season where the low-yield clusters experienced an ideal hangtime and well developed color. Several passes to drop fruit resulted in explosive flavors in the berries, despite low yields. While tannins were high, their ripe and round presentation allows for a wine that can be enjoyed while young.

**TERROIR:** Just down the road from the estate at 2300’, 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. Big subsurface boulders were removed during replanting, leaving thin tufa soil on top of a rocky volcanic bedrock.

**TASTING NOTES:** This Bordeaux-inspired estate red is held back an additional year in bottle to ensure that it is perfectly integrated on release. It is a tour-de-force Howell Mountain red wine – giant in scale without losing its iconic polish or precision. The explosive, black mountain fruit is coupled with an exuberant bouquet of exotic floral and mineral notes.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 97 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.

