

2022 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

HOWELL MOUNTAIN CUVÉE



WINEMAKER:	Jason Price
REGION:	Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS:	Cabernet Sauvignon (93%), Petit Verdot (4%), Malbec (2%), Merlot (1%)
MATURATION:	16 months in French oak (70% new)
ANALYSIS:	14.8% alc/vol TA: 6.0 pH: 3.75

VINTAGE: The 2022 vintage on Howell Mountain was marked by plentiful rain in the winter and early spring as well as some unseasonably cold weather up top. Frost was a problem; the winery lost nearly 15% of the crop during flower and fruit set as did many of their neighbors. Frost is unusual on Howell Mountain as the steep slopes in the vineyards usually prevent cold air from pooling. The result was a vintage featuring small clusters and high skin to juice ratios. Unlike on the valley floor where 2022 yields were high, and the heat in late August and September had wineries scrambling to bring in ripe bunches that produced elegant wines, Howell Mountain needed that heat to just get the grapes up to speed. The finished wines from Howell Mountain are structured, deep, dark and in short supply.

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: With 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is the most intense Howell Mountain Cuvée we have produced to date with dark, seamless Cabernet structure married to supple mouth feel, floral accents, and pure, black thorny vine fruit. The wine is heady and complex, but focused and light on its feet due to its high elevation. Put some in the cellar, and enjoy some immediately after a 30 minute decant.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: This vintage not yet rated. Recent vintage 2019: 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 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.

