

# 2023 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY GAP'S CROWN VINEYARD CHARDONNAY



**WINEMAKER:** Jason Price  
**REGION:** Sonoma Coast, California  
**VARIETALS:** Chardonnay  
**MATURATION:** 7 months in 15% new French oak  
**ANALYSIS:** 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.3g/L | pH: 3.46

**VINTAGE:** The 2023 vintage on the Sonoma coast was a cool one for the record books. We finished pressing our Howell Mountain Cabernet off in the winery after Thanksgiving, and coastal Chardonnay was likewise late to develop. Meticulous farming was key to avoiding problems from the cool damp spring and early summer.

**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:** This is a racy, Chablis-like Chardonnay. The winemaking team worked with care to allow the explosive mineral and citrus components to rise to the top from the fossilized marine life that comprises the vineyard soils. A kiss of new French oak following fermentation in neutral barrels helped preserve complexity and nuance in the winery. This Chardonnay, year in and year out, is one of the few California white wines to display such a stony personality.

As always, your purchase of this racy, mineral-laden Chardonnay will benefit the Tomales Bay Oyster Overpopulation Concerned Citizens Alliance.

**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 1990. Elton Slone joined the winery as CEO in 2004, and assumed primary ownership in 2007. Bob's retirement in 2012 brought newfound determination for Slone, who continues Robert Craig's steadfast commitment to excellence in all aspects of the business. Known for producing small-lot, site-expressive wines from high elevation vineyards in a classic style, Robert Craig Winery consistently garners critical acclaim and high accolades from the wine press.

