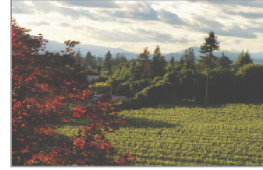


2021 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT



WINEMAKER: Jason Price
REGION: Napa Valley, California
VARIETALS: Merlot (88%), Cabernet Sauvignon (6%), Malbec (6%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 50% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.80% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.70

VINTAGE: The 2021 vintage will be remembered for low yields with intensely-flavored, small-sized berries and a smooth and uneventful harvest season. Due in part to the drought, yields were naturally lower, down a staggering 60%. The vineyard management team did a masterful job managing the vineyards, ensuring the wines captured this shy-bearing vintage's undeniable charm along with its somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

TERROIR: Situated on the north end of the Howell Mountain summit cap at 2,250' of elevation, this 26-acre vineyard, first planted in 1950, rests on a plateau overlooking the southeast face of Mount St Helena and the whole of Pope Valley. Replanted by Duckhorn Winery in 1998 to primarily Bordeaux varieties on varying rootstocks, the Candlestick Vineyard produces wines that are dense, dark and explosive with flavor. The pure white volcanic ash and Tufa soils are poor and well drained leading to low yields and intensely flavored berries.

TASTING NOTES: 2021 was a shy bearing vintage, with yields down up to 60%. However, the mountain vines yielded fruit with a ton of charm in youth despite the decidedly opaque color and structure. All the 2021 Howell Mountain reds display a lovely dark floral quality. In this bottling it's joined by notes of dark mountain flowers, crushed volcanic rock, stony black fruits and wild blackerry.

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.

