

# 2021 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

## HOWELL MOUNTAIN ZINFANDEL



**WINEMAKER:** Jason Price  
**REGION:** Napa Valley, California  
**VARIETALS:** Zinfandel  
**MATURATION:** 18 months in French oak barrels (25% new)  
**ANALYSIS:** 14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.5 g/L | pH: 3.70

**VINTAGE:** In 2021, the vines continued their recovery from the fires of 2020, a situation compounded by ongoing drought. Precision winemaking was crucial, especially in mountain vineyards, where yields were down a staggering 60%. The vineyard management team did a masterful job managing the vineyards, capturing this shy-bearing vintage's undeniable charm along with its somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

**TERROIR:** Black Sears has "King of the Mountain" bragging rights on Howell Mountain - topping out at 2,400 feet, making it officially the highest vineyard on the mountain. The vineyard is located just past the gate of Robert Craig's Howell Mountain estate. For 25 years, winemakers have clamored for the Zinfandel grown here: both biodynamic and organic, the site is dry farmed and the vines pruned in the old world style with no trellising. Zinfandel thrives in the mountain's well-drained, rocky volcanic soils and moderate climate.

**TASTING NOTES:** A beguiling wine of impeccable balance, power and length. The short crop in a drought year means that the white pepper and red, volcanic stone accents are woven deeply into the exotic, dark fruit. This Zinfandel displays loads of terroir maybe more-so than any other wine in the vintage, and it's incredibly versatile with food. It sings with grilled fish, grilled meat, pasta, cheeses, burgers and pizza.

**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, 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.

