

2022 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

AFFINITY CABERNET SAUVIGNON



WINEMAKER:

Jason Price

REGION:

Napa Valley, California

VARIETALS:

Cabernet Sauvignon (79%), Malbec (9%), Merlot (8%), Petit Verdot (2%), Cabernet Franc (2%)

MATURATION:

18 months in French oak (55% new)

ANALYSIS:

14.8% alc/vol | TA: 6.0 g/L | pH: 3.69

VINTAGE: In 2022, a historically cold start to the growing season warmed into a tremendous vintage that was marred only by a significant heat spike in early September. Late pruning, designed to keep the bunches in adolescence for just such early summer heat events, proved key in protecting the fruit from the high heat around Labor Day. This shy-bearing vintage has undeniable charm along with somewhat brooding dark floral qualities and opaque structure.

TERROIR: The 2022 bottling of "Affinity Cabernet" is a structured, classic Napa Valley wine that features dark fruit and a velvet texture. For this vintage, Robert Craig's mountain estate vineyards on Howell Mountain and Mount Veeder provide the backbone of the wine, rounded out by a handful of talented Napa Valley growers who have long contributed to this mountain and hillside-sourced Bordeaux blend. Affinity continues to be a wine that is powerful and ageworthy, yet supple enough to be enjoyed upon release. More so than ever, Affinity provides savvy wine lovers with a Napa Valley icon at a tremendous price point.

TASTING NOTES: The 2022 vintage of Affinity is notable for its increase in power and complexity over more forward fruit-driven wines from Southern Napa in previous vintages. The mineral, graphite and black thorny-vine fruits are all on full display in this mountain-sourced wine. Tiny clusters formed at high elevations in the Napa Valley provide strength and structure in this deeply colored Bordeaux blend. A more judicious use of new French Oak helps the dark fruit to pour from the glass and extend through the palate.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not Yet Rated. Previous Vintage: 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 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.

