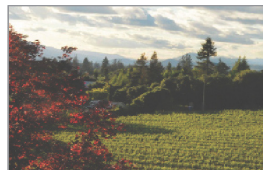


2022 ROBERT CRAIG WINERY HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT



WINEMAKER:

Jason Price

REGION:

Napa Valley, California

VARIETALS:

Merlot (89%), Cabernet Sauvignon (6%), Malbec (4%),
Petit Verdot (1%)

MATURATION:

18 months in 50% new French oak

ANALYSIS:

14.60% alc/vol | TA: 5.9 g/L | pH: 3.69

VINTAGE: 2022 began slowly with extremely cold weather and plenty of rain mixed with snow at the top of Howell Mountain. The vines were able to achieve full dormancy with the sap returning fully to the root structures. The rested vines were energetic enough to provide plenty of canopy that acted as a shield for a significant heat spike in early September. Between pruning late and the healthy canopies, these vineyard blocks were absent from heat stress and maintained a very healthy acid and tannin structure to complement the deep, darkly colored fruit.

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: This wine offers a lovely dark floral quality, joined by notes of dark mountain flowers, crushed volcanic rock, stony black fruits and wild blackberry in concert with a typical ground white pepper spice.

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.

