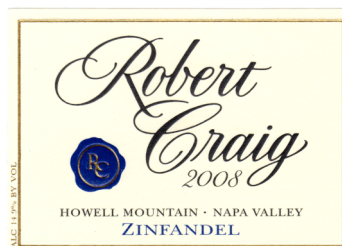


2008  
Zinfandel  
Howell Mountain

Blend: 90% Zinfandel,  
5% Petit Sirah, 5% Syrah  
Total Production: 640 cases



**WINEMAKER NOTES** Our 2008 vintage from neighboring Black Sears Vineyard combines the power of mountain fruit with winemaking finesse to create a Zinfandel of impressive structure and elegance. This wine's multi-faceted flavor profile sets it apart from the world of one-dimensional, overripe Zinfandels, emphasizing the special qualities of its Howell Mountain origins. This is truly a wine to savor with good food – BBQ salmon, grilled ribeye, smoked duck breast or slow-simmered short ribs.

**VINEYARD CHARACTERISTICS** Topping out at 2400 feet, the Black Sears Estate is the highest vineyard on Howell Mountain and for over 25 years it has produced Zinfandel grapes of great renown. The vineyard is biodynamically farmed and the vines are head-pruned in the old-world style with no trellising. This viticultural technique is ideally suited to growing Zinfandel grapes, which thrive in the mountain's well-drained, rocky volcanic soils and moderate climate.

**TASTING NOTES** *Aroma:* Concentrated, long-lived essence of black raspberry and classic Howell Mountain pepper are at the forefront, infused with a potpourri of dried mountain lilac and rose petals. *Flavors:* Juicy, rich black and red fruits are first-up on the palate, followed by white pepper, cranberries, warm spices, and a subtle minerality. *Finish:* A nice balance of rounded, supple tannins and bright acidity keep the dark black fruit aloft through the finish, ending with a touch of clove. *General:* A layered, stylish, complex example of Howell Mountain Zinfandel at its best. Decanting recommended.

**WINE INFORMATION** *Harvest date:* September 23  
*Average sugar:* 26.2° Brix  
*TA:* .52  
*pH:* 3.68  
*Alcohol:* 14.9%  
*Barrel Aging:* 18 months in 70% new French oak; 30% second-year.  
*Bottling Date:* May 2010  
*Price:* California suggested retail price is \$50.00 per bottle.  
*Release date:* September 2010