



2003 Robert Craig Howell Mountain • Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Blend 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc
Total Production: 750 cases

Winemaker Notes

The depth and power of Cabernets from Howell Mountain is well-known, and the 2003 Robert Craig offering possesses these qualities in abundance. Winemaker Chad Alexander's goal is to achieve even greater intensity and concentration in the mountain fruit, with ripe, supple tannins providing the backbone. This is our first unfiltered vintage at bottling, which we believe further preserves the wine's integrity and true expression. The Howell Mountain *terroir* shines through with dark mountain fruit, white pepper and warm spices, and the wine's generous structure promises long-term ageability.

Vineyard Characteristics

High above Napa Valley in the rugged mountain range east of St. Helena, the Howell Mountain Appellation is the fabled source of superb Cabernet winegrapes. Averaging 2200 feet in elevation, the exceptional vineyards that produce our Howell Mountain Cabernet possess varied microclimates and well-drained red volcanic soil. Moderate climatic conditions during the growing season, with cooler days and warm nights, result in slow ripening of small, intensely flavored berries.

Tasting Notes

Aroma: A heady perfume of black fruit, wild berry, and spice. *Flavors:* Deep, abundant wild berry, leading into blackberry and currant, accented with sweet herbs, pepper and spice. *Finish:* Layered complexity and rich, supple texture carry the black fruit into currant and vanilla. *General:* Grows in complexity from first aromas to last, lingering flavors, delivering the best of the Howell Mountain *terroir*.

Wine Information

Winemaker: Chad Alexander
Harvest dates: October 2-October 31
Average sugar: 25.7° Brix
TA: .60
pH: 3.65
Alcohol: 14.8%
Barrel Aging: 24 months in Chateau-style French oak, 75% new and 25% second year
Bottling Date: November 2005
Price: California suggested retail price is \$70.00 per bottle.
Release Date: September 2006