2005 Robert Craig
Howell Mountain • Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Blend: 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot
Total Production: 1100 cases

Winemaker Notes

If there were a Goddess on Howell Mountain, this would be her wine! The dark, deep, wild mountain fruit and warm pepper and spice flow from the opening aromatics, over the mid-palate and through a powerful, extended finish. Unfiltered and unfined, this signature Howell Mountain Cabernet is polished and elegant for so young a wine. Supple tannins are nicely integrated to create exceptional balance and complexity.

Vineyard Characteristics

Howell Mountain's rugged terrain produces among Napa Valley's most acclaimed and sought-after Cabernets. Our estate vineyard and winery are located at the highest elevation, along a ridgeline overlooking the Valley at nearly 2300 feet. The red and brown volcanic soils are thin, rocky, and well-drained, causing the vines to struggle for water and nutrients and creating small berries with intense flavor. Temperatures are more moderate in the daytime and slightly warmer at night than the Valley floor, translating into an extended growing season that allows the berries to ripen slowly.

Tasting Notes

Aroma: Enticing aromas of wild berry and black fruit open up, followed by white pepper, hazelnut, vanilla and a floral touch. *Flavors:* Luscious, mouth-filling blackberry coats the palate, accented with more white pepper, roasted coffee, anise, clove and mineral notes. *Finish:* The focused flavors pour into the finish, extending the wine's lively complexity. Fine, silky tannins. *General:* Possesses the weight and structure befitting a mountain Cabernet - dark fruit layered on a bed of Howell Mountain red rock. Decanting is recommended.

Wine Information

Harvest dates: September 27–October 22
Average sugar: 25.2° Brix
TA: .57
pH: 3.81
Alcohol: 14.8%
Barrel Aging: 20 months in Chateau-style French oak, 75% new
Bottling Date: July 2007
Price: California suggested retail price is $80 per bottle.
Release Date: September 2008