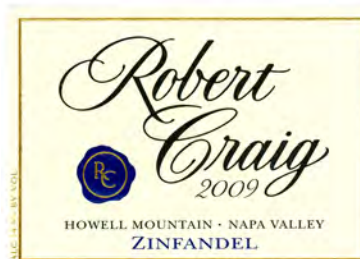


2009
Zinfandel
Howell Mountain

Blend: 86% Zinfandel,
9% Petit Sirah, 5% Syrah
Total Production: 294 cases



WINEMAKER NOTES This Zinfandel from neighboring Black Sears Vineyard combines the power of mountain fruit with winemaking finesse to create a wines of impressive structure and elegance. The multi-faceted flavor profile sets it apart from the world of one-dimensional, overripe Zinfandels, emphasizing the special qualities of its Howell Mountain origins.

VINEYARD CHARACTERISTICS Topping out at 2400 feet, the Black Sears Estate just up the road from our winery, is the highest vineyard on Howell Mountain and for over 25 years it has produced Zinfandel grapes of great renown. The vineyard is dry-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:* Signature pepper and spice meld with fresh, bright mountain blueberries and boysenberries. *Flavors:* Balanced entry leads into more deep, wild berry fruit, fresh ground white pepper, lavender and delicate savory notes. *Finish:* A layer of intense fruit powers through the finish, bolstered by fine-grained tannins. *General:* A stylish, complex example of Howell Mtn Zinfandel at its best. Decanting recommended.

WINE INFORMATION *Harvest date:* October 8
Average sugar: 25.7° Brix
TA: .58
pH: 3.85
Alcohol: 14.9%
Barrel Aging: 17 months in Chateau-style French oak barrels: 70% new and 30% 2nd year.
Bottling Date: April 2011
Price: California suggested retail price is \$50.00 per bottle.
Release date: October 2011