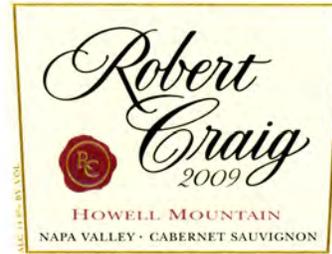


2009  
Howell Mountain  
Napa Valley  
Cabernet Sauvignon

Blend: 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot,  
4% Merlot, 2% Malbec  
Total Production: 1053 cases



**WINEMAKER NOTES** The Howell Mountain Appellation boundaries start at 1400 feet, the elevation at which fog from San Francisco Bay drifts up through the Napa Valley, and extend to over 2300 feet. The *terroir* along the mountain's summit boasts a moderate climate, superb volcanic soils and intensely flavored winegrapes. Our estate Cabernet Sauvignon is grown at nearly 2300' of elevation. The 2009 vintage is big and bold, yet possessing exceptional balance and harmony for so young a wine. Unfiltered and unfined.

**VINEYARD CHARACTERISTICS** The rocky, red soils of Howell Mountain present a challenge to any winegrower as the vines struggle to produce each year. Over the last ten years our 9.5 acre Winery Estate Vineyard has yielded an average of only 1.8 tons per acre. The shy bearing vines and slow ripening clusters lead to wines of great power, depth and complexity without the overripe qualities found often in new world wines. Our goal is to let the vineyard expression shine through in the finished wine.

**TASTING NOTES** *Aroma:* Glorious, concentrated dark red currant and black cherry predominate, with underlying white pepper, fresh violets and warm spices. *Flavors:* Deep, midnight-black fruit powers through, carrying along a bouquet of mountain lavender, roasted coffee bean and signature Howell Mountain pepper and spice. *Finish:* Layers of wild berry, black cherry and dusty red stone build to a mouth-filling finish. *General:* For all its power and nerve, this is a nuanced, complex wine built on a foundation of silky tannins for a long cellar life. Decanting is recommended.

**WINE INFORMATION** *Harvest dates:* September 23 – October 7  
*Average sugar:* 25.4° Brix  
*TA:* .61; *pH:* 3.74  
*Alcohol:* 14.8%  
*Barrel Aging:* 17 months in Chateau-style French oak, 77% new and 23% second year. Unfiltered and unfined.  
*Bottling Date:* April 2011  
*Price:* California suggested retail price is \$80 per bottle.  
*Release Date:* September 2012

NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON ~ ELEVATED