



2004 Robert Craig Howell Mountain • Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Blend 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Total Production: 940 cases

Winemaker Notes

Unfiltered and unfined, our signature Howell Mountain Cabernet for 2004 is the most concentrated that we have produced – deep and seamless from the opening aromatics to a long-lived finish. Crafted from our estate vineyard atop Howell Mountain, this offering is redolent of the Appellation's complex *terroir*, exhibiting abundant dark red fruit, wild berry, white pepper and spice, enlivened by a Bordeaux-like mineral character. Fine, supple tannins are nicely integrated to create exceptional balance and complexity. This impressive Cabernet benefits from 30 minutes of decanting in a pitcher before enjoying.

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 that are intensely flavored. Temperatures are moderate in the daytime and warmer at night, translating into an extended growing season that allows the berries to ripen slowly.

Tasting Notes

Aroma: An exotic perfume of dark fruit, warm spice and roasted coffee. *Flavors:* Deep, abundant wild berry and black fruit flow down the palate, accented with pepper, clove, anise and bracing mineral notes. *Finish:* Beautifully layered, complex flavors carry through on the finish, backed by fine, silky tannins. *General:* Dark fruit layered on a bed of Howell Mountain red rock.

Wine Information

Harvest dates: September 29–October 28
Average sugar: 25.9° Brix
TA: .59
pH: 3.78
Alcohol: 14.9%
Barrel Aging: 20 months in Chateau-style French oak, 80% new and 20% second year
Bottling Date: July 2006
Price: California suggested retail price is \$70 per bottle.
Release Date: September 2007