



2019 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT

Only three barrels were bottled of this mountain Merlot, grown in a small single-vineyard block adjacent to our winery production facility at the 2000' elevation atop Howell Mountain.

The volcanic terroir and high elevation exposure really concentrate the fruit, producing extremely dark color, almost Cabernet-like intensity. Thoroughly ripe red and black currant flavors are framed by gently gripping tannins. The finish is long, expressive, and velvety.

My first experience with Merlot grown on Howell Mountain was in the 1980s and I was astounded by the expression of Merlot grown in this Viticultural Area. In 2006, we planted Clone 3 Merlot from cuttings at the Paloma Vineyard on Spring Mountain, whose wines I produced during their first eight vintages beginning in 1994. I felt these were some of the best Merlot bottlings I have had the pleasure to craft in the 44 vintages I have worked with this grape variety and I was thrilled to bring this pedigree clone to our Howell Mountain Vineyard.

Most of the production from this small lot is blended into our Napa Valley Merlot, but we set aside a small amount from each vintage to be bottled separately as a 100% Howell Mountain Merlot.

SPECIFICATIONS

Wine: 2019 Howell Mountain Merlot

Appellation: Howell Mountain, Napa Valley

Vineyard: Robert Foley Estate

Harvest: Hand-picked October 2019

Vinification: Ten-day fermentation, French Oak barrels

Alcohol: 16.1%

Bottled: August 2021 Production: 74 cases Winemaker: Bob Foley

Retail price: \$75