

A Very Chilly Start For The 2008 Growing Season

Wind machines have been humming long into many nights throughout Napa Valley for an unprecedented two months. We're going through one of the most severe springtime frosts that I can recall during 30 years in the Valley. Over 50% of crop has been lost in some vineyards.

We are still assessing our vineyards, but fortunately the damage seems minimal. In the Affinity foothills vineyard, we have a propane-powered wind machine (our neighbors love it) which blows off the cold air. Overall, it looks as if we've lost perhaps 10% percent of our crop,

Frost danger is usually most severe in low-lying areas, where the cold air settles

and can become stationary. Mountain vineyards benefit from the high altitude and frost is typically avoided. However, with this freeze, some have been hit - many for the first time.

This is the time of year when the first tender shoots of leaves and flower clusters are pushing forth. When the temperature dips, these shoots can freeze and die.

Contrary to some news reports, grape quality will not be affected by the freeze, only quantity. The vines are not injured, so they can produce a second growth of shoots which are as good as the first growth but may contain only half the grapes. Considering that we usually drop excess crop during the growing season to improve quality, this should not be a major concern.



The number of grape clusters that develop from young shoots depend upon Springtime weather conditions.

Weather forecasts are for warmer night-time temperatures from now on, so we should be through the worst. As usual, Mother Nature is really in charge - we just take our orders from her.

Robert Craig

INTRODUCING 2006 Robert Craig Howell Mountain Zinfandel

Our New Zinfandel from the Fabled Black Sears Vineyard Speaks Eloquently of Howell Mountain

Production: Only 490 Cases

If Cabernet Sauvignon is "king" on Howell Mountain, then Zinfandel is definitely the "crown prince."

Just up the road from our winery on Howell Mountain is the Black Sears Estate, where Joyce Black Sears and Jerre Sears have been nurturing Zinfandel grapes of great renown for over 25 years.

Since every square foot of our Howell Mountain vineyard is reserved for Cabernet Sauvignon, we've coveted those Zinfandel grapes, but they have been spoken for by major Zinfandel producers, such as D-Cubed and Howell Mountain Winery as well as the Sears' own label.

Continued on page 2



Exceptional Zinfandel grapes are nurtured on Howell Mountain by Jerre Sears and Joyce Black Sears.

ROBERT CRAIG WINERY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008



Mt. Veeder is a large appellation - over 25 square miles - but less than 10% percent is planted to vineyards due to the steep, remote terrain. Our Mt. Veeder Cabernet comes from a premier vineyard along the summit at 1800 feet which produces powerful, rich and complex wines.

NEW RELEASE: 2005 Mt. Veeder Cabernet Captures the Essence of this Magnificent Appellation

Everything is in place for a superlative 2005 vintage: a core of deep, dark mountain fruit within a powerful tannin structure, conveying great balance and integration for so young a wine.

This Cabernet embodies the heart of Mt. Veeder in its concentrated blackberry, black cherry and cassis flavors, interwoven with cocoa and cedar. The underlying mountain tannins are fine-grained and supple, promising even better things to come.

Tasting Notes

Aroma: A focused nose of deep blackberry and cassis, laced with white chocolate, a touch of anise, smoky cedar and tobacco.

Flavors: Mouth-filling mountain fruit and cassis predominate, underlain with

mocha, bay leaf and licorice.

Finish: The full palette of Mt. Veeder flavors carries through on a long finish, bringing forth more dark fruit, supple tannins and notes of tobacco and vanilla.

General: A powerful, balanced and complex wine with well-integrated, ripe tannins. Decanting for 30 minutes to one hour is recommended.

Wine Information

Harvest dates: Oct. 3 - Nov. 1

Average sugar: 25.2° Brix

TA: .64; **pH:** 3.71

Alcohol: 14.9%

Barrel Aging: 19 months in French oak

Bottling Date: June 2007

Total Production: 1320 cases

Price: \$70 (See Order Form on Page 3 for new release pricing)

SUMMER WINE RELEASES: 2005 MT. VEEDER CABERNET
NEW! 2006 HOWELL MOUNTAIN ZINFANDEL • NEW! 2006 MT. GEORGE CUVÉE

Summer Newsletter 2008

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ROBERT CRAIG WINERY



2006 Howell Mountain Zinfandel Debuts



Black Sears Vineyard tops out at 2400 feet, making this the highest vineyard on Howell Mountain. Biodynamically farmed, the vineyard's soils are Red Aiken and Forward Loams on an east-facing slope, offering an ideal location for Zinfandel.

Continued from Page 1

Imagine our delight when Jerre and Joyce agreed to part with a small quantity of grapes in 2006 as the foundation for a new Robert Craig Howell Mountain Zinfandel.

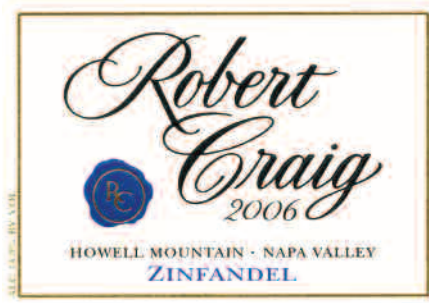
Howell Mountain Soils and Climate Add Up to Ideal Zinfandel Country

What makes Howell Mountain such an ideal region in Napa Valley for Zinfandel? First, the well-drained red, rocky volcanic soils cause vines to struggle for existence. This stress produces small, intensely flavored berries that are ideal building blocks for Zinfandel and Cabernet.

Also Zinfandel grapes love warm weather, but too much heat can translate into high-acid, high-alcohol wines. Howell Mountain has the perfect combination of moderate days and warm summer nights to produce fruit with balanced acidity and sugar.

Robert Craig Zinfandel Expresses the Best of Howell Mountain

This beautifully balanced, luscious wine delivers all the qualities that make Howell Mountain Zinfandels so distinctive - concentrated, long-lived essence of black raspberry and mountain pepper backed by finely textured tannins.



Aroma: Smooth and creamy on the nose, opening up with bright black raspberry and mountain lilac, followed by notes of wild pepper and sandalwood.

Flavors: Black raspberry and wild berry follow through on the palate, leading into pronounced black and white pepper, mineral notes and finishing with vanilla cream and spice.

Finish: Beautiful, strong finish in which the fruit and supple tannins are in perfect harmony. Decanting for 30 minutes is recommended.

Wine Information

Harvest dates: Oct. 17

Average sugar: 25.4° Brix

TA: .61; *pH:* 3.82

Alcohol: 14.9%

Barrel Aging: 17 months in 70% French & 30% Hungarian oak

Bottling Date: March 2008

Total Production: Only 490 cases

Price: \$50 (See Order Form on Page 3 for new release pricing)

NEW RELEASE ALERT!

2006 MT. GEORGE CUVEE

Our winemaker has given the green light to release our **2006 Robert Craig Mt. George • Napa Valley Cuvee**. This brand-new, Left Bank-inspired red wine combines fine barrel lots of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc from our estate and neighboring vineyards in the southeastern foothills of Mt. George.

Harmonious, deep and delicious, this wine is crafted to be enjoyed today with friends and family. Only 325 cases made.

Price: \$30 (See Order Form on Page 3 for new release pricing)

WINE REVIEW CORNER

Club Member Comments

2005 Affinity Cabernet

"The 05 Affinity is soooooo good. We need more." – *Doug Winchester*

"Beautiful says it all. . .I just opened my first bottle of the 2005 Affinity. . .and it is fantastic!" – *Deirdre Smallwood*

2003 Affinity Cabernet

"Opened my first bottle of 2003 Affinity last Friday. It was amazing. Folks raved about it over other bottles costing 4x as much." – *Brad Plummer*

Wine On-Line & Publications

2005 Affinity Cabernet

"Blackberry fruit aromas; full body; rich, textured . . .black cherry fruit flavors with notes of charred oak; full tannin." *Highly recommended. California Grapevine, Feb/March 2008*

"Juicy fruit is teamed with plenty of sweet oak. . .nicely filled aromas. . .full-bodied wine." *Connoisseurs' Guide, April 2008*

" . . .winery achieves impressive concentration and depth of flavor without sacrificing purity of fruit or charging an arm and a leg for the finished product. Notes of blackberry and black cherry intermingle with accents of spicy oak. . ." *Michael Franz, Wine Review Online, Feb 19, 2008*

SAVE 5% - 10% ON ALL ORDERS THROUGH JUNE 7TH!

Take advantage of our new release special including three different 2005 Mt. Veeder formats: 750ml, 1.5L (magnum) and 3L etched bottle, plus the 06 Howell Mtn. Zin and 06 Mt. George Cuvee. Receive an extra 5% to 10% off these wines and our other selections on orders placed by June 7, 2008. See Order Form.

A TASTE OF HOWELL MOUNTAIN CHARLES KRUG WINERY SUNDAY, JUNE 21 - 2:30-7 PM

Join us for this great tasting and sample the fantastic Cabernets, Zinfandels, Syrahs and other wines that come from the Howell Mountain Appellation.

This event is always a sell out, so get your tickets early! Purchase online or by sending a check to HMV&G, P.O. Box 38, Angwin, CA 94508. Advance tickets: \$95/person (by June 18) or at the door (if available) \$125/person. Benefits the Howell Mountain Elementary School

CABERNET WINE CLUB

Go to www.robertcraigwine.com for more details & Club application

CLUB RELEASE SCHEDULE

- Affinity ~ Cabernet Blend (February)
 - Mt. Veeder Cabernet (Mid-April)
 - Howell Mountain Cabernet (Late Sept.)
 - Spring Mountain Cabernet !
- Available to Club Only** (Early Nov.)

Signature Club

15% Savings on Club Shipments and Wine Orders. Four Shipments of **Two Bottles** each for a total of eight bottles per year.

Five-Star Club

20% Savings on Club Shipments and Wine Orders. Four Shipments of **Four Bottles** each for a total of 16 bottles per year.

Cellar Case Club

25% Savings on Club Shipments and Wine Orders. Four Shipments of **One Case** each for a total of four cases per year.

ROBERT CRAIG WINERY SUMMER ORDER FORM

Wine Offerings Savings valid thru 6/7/08	Quantity	Retail Price	TOTAL
2005 Mt. Veeder Cabernet (750ml)		\$70	
2005 Mt. Veeder Magnum (1.5L)		\$160	
2005 Mt. Veeder 3L Etched (3.0L)		\$395	
NEW! 2006 Howell Mtn Zin (750ml)		\$50	
2005 Affinity (750ml)		\$45	
2005 Affinity Half-Bottle (375ml)		\$24	
2006 Durell Chardonnay (750ml)		\$45	
NEW! 2006 Mt. George Cuvee (750ml)		\$30	
<i>NEW RELEASE SPECIAL! Take 5% off orders of 1 to 6 bottles or 10% off 7 or more bottles - ok to mix and match</i>			
Order total			
Applicable sales tax & shipping will be added For shipping charges, go to: http://www.robertcraigwine.com/orderform.pdf			
GRAND TOTAL			

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PAYMENT INFORMATION BELOW

Customer name as it appears on card (please print)

Credit Card Number (VI, MC, AMEX)

Expiration Date

Shipment Information: business address preferred. Adult signature required. No post office boxes.

Email address (IMPORTANT!) home email preferred

Name (Please print)

Company (for shipping to a business address)

Delivery Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone (required)

Fax your order: 707/265-9162 Phone: 707/252-2250, ext. 1
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