

ESTD.  1943

Martin Ray
VINEYARDS & WINERY



BRIX AT HARVEST ————— 25.0°
TOTAL ACIDITY ————— 5.5 G/L
PH ————— 3.81
ALC ————— 14.8%

2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON HOWELL MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

THE WINE

A massive, tannic, and characteristically herbal mountain Cabernet with serious power and presence. Dark, structured, and built for aging, it pairs rugged Howell Mountain intensity with a surprisingly plush, layered palate.

VINEYARD NOTES

Sourced from Candlestick Ridge on the east-facing slope of Howell Mountain at around 2,100 ft. Planted in the 1990s and organically farmed, this dramatic site is surrounded by pine trees and defined by volcanic soils with porous rock, winds, and low-nutrient conditions that naturally concentrate the fruit. While the site is often an early ripener due to its extreme exposure, 2023 was an exception, delivering a longer, later ripening curve.

VARIETAL COMPOSITION

100% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINTAGE NOTES

2023 was a long, even-paced vintage in Napa, with mild conditions that extended hang time and supported balanced ripening. On Howell Mountain's high elevations, the slower season helped build deep color and structure while maintaining freshness.

WINEMAKING NOTES

Handpicked, then carefully destemmed into stainless steel. The must cold soaked for 48 hours, fermented to a peak of 82°F, and remained on skins through extended maceration for added structure and depth. Pressed after 25 days, then barreled to 75% new French oak. Native malolactic completed in barrel, followed by two rackings to allow bottling unfinned and unfiltered.

TASTING NOTES

Powerful yet polished, with impressive, integrated tannins and a distinctly mountain-herbal profile. Notes of chaparral, dried lavender, black tea and Earl Grey weave through layers of black fruit and evergreen, accented by black forest cherry cake and a savory touch of olive brine. Plush on the palate with a long, structured finish.

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