

NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

## 2015 District Collection Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon



### TECHNICAL NOTES

**Appellation:** Howell Mountain, Napa Valley

**Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Alcohol:** 14.5%

**pH:** 3.66

**TA:** 6.1 g/L

**Ageing:** 19 months in French oak,  
68% new French oak

### IN THE VINEYARD

The grapes for the Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon were sourced from a single vineyard at 1751 ft. in elevation in the highly coveted area of Cold Springs Road. The Forward Silt Loam soil has excellent drainage and the grapes were harvested from a shadier side of the vineyard to avoid over exposure to the sun.

### ABOUT THE VINTAGE

The unseasonably warm temperatures in the early growing season in the Napa Valley in 2015 resulted in early bud break and bloom. Colder temperatures later in the season caused uneven fruit set and resulted in a smaller crop than previous average yields. Winemakers and vineyard crews worked diligently to pick and sort the best berries. While drought was still a concern for most of California, Napa Valley received 75% of normal rainfall for the water year.

### CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKER

A mix of clones 4 and 337, the grapes were harvested on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and fermented on the skins for 57 days with pump overs twice daily. After native fermentation, the wine was gently pressed, racked and aged for 19 months in 68% new French oak barrels. Tightly grained French oak barrels slowly impart their oak to wines for a consistent, well-rounded aging process while yielding subtle oak influences to the Cabernet Sauvignon.

### WINE PROFILE

Our 2015 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is a lovely deep garnet-purple color in the glass and opens with aromas of black currants and dried herbs. This wine coats the palate nicely with flavors of blackberry, espresso and subtle earthy notes. This is a medium to full-bodied wine with well-balanced acidity, tannins, lovely fruit and a lingering, perfumed finish.