



CORNERSTONE
CELLARS • NAPA VALLEY

2016 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

Founded in 1991 by Michael Dragutsky, Cornerstone Cellars is the quintessential Napa Valley mountain and benchland producer of Cabernet Sauvignon. Their winemaking led by Kari Auringer honors Napa Valley's great heritage by crafting intense, elegant and balanced wines that stand among the very best winegrowing estates in the world. Through intellectual rigor, humility, and with the utmost respect for the land, Cornerstone Cellars aims to make wines that truly speak to its exceptional vineyard sites in the most authentic and genuine way possible.



2016 Vintage

Throughout most of California the winter months finally brought us substantial, nourishing rains after four long years of drought, giving stressed vineyards and winemakers some relief. An early, warm spring triggered a slightly early budbreak, with veraison also starting early in many vineyards. All evidence pointed to 2016 being another early vintage, until the mild summer days bathed the vineyards in moderate temperatures and stretched the ripening season a little longer than expected. Long sunny days with moderate temperatures allowed us to hang the fruit on the vines a little longer, achieving ideal ripeness without intervention from Mother Nature.

The Appellation

From an appellation defined primarily by elevation, the Howell Mountain AVA lies between 1,800 and 2,400 feet. The terraced vineyards can face to the east, south or west.

2016 Tasting Notes

Cornerstone Cellars has been making Cabernet Sauvignon from Howell Mountain since our inaugural vintage in 1991. If you give this classic Howell Mountain Cabernet a swirl you will start to release the chocolate, spice, nutmeg, cedar and all of the expressive blue and black fruit aromas. Another swirl will liberate the complex layers of black licorice and cassis. First sip is round, soft and amazingly approachable at this young age, it's hard to believe this is 100% mountain fruit. The luscious texture explodes with bright ripe summer fruit, dark chocolate with just a hint of sweet vanilla. This youthful wine would likely benefit from a splash in the decanter, just to give it a chance to express the nuances of both concentration and elegance. As with many wines boasting a mountain heritage, this would benefit from a little time in the cellar, if you can wait.

2016 Winemaking Notes

Vintage:	2016
Appellation:	Howell Mountain
Vineyard:	Ink Grade Vineyard
Varietals:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvest Date:	September 24, 2016
Cooperage:	70% New French oak, 30% 2-Year French oak
Alcohol:	14.6%
pH:	3.6
TA:	6.3 g/L
Bottling date:	February 20, 2019
Production:	242 6-pak cases
Retail:	\$120