



2018 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.



2018 Vintage

In Northern California, we had an extremely dry winter. March and April brought us an abundant amount of much-needed rain. This surge of rain brought us closer to “normal” and the reservoirs are looking fairly full. A mild winter and cool spring delayed budbreak and bloom by as much as two weeks. Cool, steady summer temperatures pushed out veraison by another week or two. We avoided any major heat spikes that we have come to expect in August and September, which pushed out harvest even further. The near-perfect weather just prior to harvest gave us plenty of time to pick at peak ripeness. Yields are up over past years, and the fruit is of superb quality.

The Appellation

Howell Mountain is a sub-appellation of Napa Valley which is defined primarily by elevation. The Howell Mountain AVA is positioned well above the valley floor and lies between 1,800 and 2,400 feet. The terraced vineyards can face to the east, south or west. The soils vary from decomposed volcanic ash, called “tufa”, and red clay that is high in iron. Both soil types are nutrient poor, which stresses the vines, producing intense wines from small clusters and berries. The smaller grapes have a higher skin-to-juice ratio resulting in deeper colored wine with more pronounced tannins.

2018 Tasting Notes

Cornerstone Cellars has been making Cabernet Sauvignon from Howell Mountain since our inaugural vintage in 1991. The 2018 vintage produced a wine with classic Howell Mountain characteristics. Deep in color with dark garnet-purple hues and expressive aromatics of black currants and a hint of dried herbs. The entry is full and ripe, with youthful vibrance and lush texture. On the palate this full-bodied wine offers black ripe fruit flavors intermingled with the nuanced earthiness that defines mountain fruit. Complex and thought-provoking this beauty is ready now but would benefit with a little time in the cellar.

2018 Winemaking Notes

Vintage:	2018
Appellation:	Howell Mountain
Vineyard:	Ink Grade Vineyard
Varietals:	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Harvest Date:	September 26, 2018
Cooperage:	70% New French oak Barrels, 30% neutral oak
Alcohol:	14.6%
pH:	3.80
TA:	5.6 g/L
Bottling Date:	July 22, 2020
Production:	375 6-pack cases
Suggested Retail	\$120