



# 2019 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT

HOWELL MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

The Ink Grade Estate Vineyard claims a view unbeknownst to most in the Napa Valley, lying in the northeast corner of the Howell Mountain AVA. Terraced throughout due to the extreme slopes, this mountainside vineyard clings to volcanic “tufa” soils. Ink Grade Estate possesses a raw tension that renders fruit of immense intensity and depth. If ever there was a site that imparted a feeling of reverence, Ink Grade is such a place.

## REDEFINING NAPA VALLEY MERLOT

At an elevation of 2200', our Howell Mountain Merlot is one of the highest Merlot sites in the Napa Valley. Planted in 1990 on steeply terraced slopes, the vines have been forced to send deep roots into the red Aiken soil that is characteristic of Howell Mountain, yielding fruit of immense intensity, complexity, and vibrancy. Our first vintage, the 2019 Howell Mountain Merlot, is a powerful testament to what is achievable for one of the great, but often underrated, grapes of the world. Cabernet lovers will be astounded with the tension, structure, and elegance of this 100% mountain Merlot wine.

## 2019 VINTAGE HIGHLIGHTS

“This vibrant wine has prominent blue and purple fruit components giving way to lilac blossoms and freshly cut pomegranate. Fresh herbs like pennyroyal are complemented by sweet spices. The finish carries through with lingering notes of mature fruits and peppercorn. A complex wine that reflects the unique land where it was grown.”

— Winemaker Matt Taylor, May 2022

AVA: 100% HOWELL MOUNTAIN

VARIETAL COMPOSITION: 100% MERLOT

AGING: 8 MONTHS IN OAK TANK, FOLLOWED BY  
24 MONTHS IN BARREL AND FOUDE (65% NEW)

HARVEST DATE: 9.9.2019 – 9.14.2019

ALCOHOL: 14%

VINEYARD BLOCK: HEAVEN & EARTH

PRODUCTION: 510 CASES

# INK GRADE