

RED CAP VINEYARDS

2011 HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The growing season was a challenge from the start having much more of a European feel. Cool temperatures lingered into May when we began to see some moderate heat. This remained the story throughout the summer with very few 90-degree days and plenty of cloud covered periods. The good news was the fruit hanging was in terrific balance with this slow growing season. Some early September rains and more fall-like patterns started when we usually see 45 more days of ripening weather here in Napa Valley.

With this unusual adversity, Red Cap was forced to drop a significant amount of fruit to allow the vine to truly ripen what was left to hang. Our ending yield was well below what we typically harvest, but with fantastic color, depth of flavors, and texture.

Rich aromas of mocha, eucalyptus, and black cherry are harmonious and intense in this wine. The subtle notes of chamomile, sandalwood and rhubarb fill the mid-palate. Cinnamon, blackberry and cigar tobacco drive a long, old world rustic-style finish with delicious mint and cedar wrapped around them. Accessible and delicious now, this wine will age beautifully for 15+ years.

Wine: 2011 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Howell Mountain

Varietal: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Barrel Regime: 28 months in French oak barrels

Alcohol: 14.7%

pH: 3.86

Titrateable Acidity: 6.0g/L

Harvest: Early November, 2011

Winemaker: Rudy Zuidema

Production: 260 Cases