

INK GRADE

2018 HOWELL MOUNTAIN CABERNET SAUVIGNON

NAPA VALLEY, 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.

A GRAND CRU OF HOWELL MOUNTAIN

This wine is crafted from Ink Grade’s highest elevation parcels. Vines are hand-selected, utilizing gentle processing techniques throughout fermentation, employing less new oak and larger aging vessels to maintain and express the purity and pedigree of this vineyard. The resulting wine is profound and possesses tension while remaining fresh and bright. A distinctive artifact of place, Ink Grade Cabernet Sauvignon is truly a grand cru of Howell Mountain.

2018 VINTAGE INSIGHTS

The high-elevation 30-year-old vineyard offers a wine of beautiful acid structure, fine tannins, savory and spicy flavors from black olives to Chinese 5-spice. The fruit has an elegant marriage of black and blue fruits both ripe and tart. A signature expression of the site is the graphite, iron and flint character that uniquely illustrates the terroir of the Aiken soils.

– MASTER SOMMELIER AND MANAGING PARTNER CARLTON MCCOY JR., MAY 2022

AVA & VARIETAL: 100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON |
HOWELL MOUNTAIN

HARVEST DATE: SEPTEMBER 17-26, 2018

AGING: 8 MONTHS IN OAK TANK, 24 MONTHS IN
BARREL (85% NEW)

BOTTLED ON NOVEMBER 8, 2021

ALCOHOL: 14%

TA: 6.31G/L

PH: 3.45

PRODUCTION: 1,321 CASES