

A Cornerstone Cellars White Label Single Vineyard Selection
**2012 Cornerstone Cellars Howell Mountain
Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley**



Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon has been our true cornerstone wine of Cornerstone Cellars since our first vintage in 1991. Being one of the most sought after, ultra-premium winegrowing regions in the Napa Valley, this wine reflects our vision of a classic mountain grown cabernet. The principle factor that defines our Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is the vineyard source located on the Eastern side of Howell Mountain at an elevation of 1800 feet. With its steep slopes and volcanic tufa soils, root growth is restricted resulting in vines with their hallmark small berries with intense fruit flavors, structure and robust tannins that makes wines from this vineyard so unique

Classic, perfect, textbook - these are the words being used to describe the 2012 vintage in the Napa Valley. The long, warm growing season left no room for excuses by vintners. On top of that it was a huge harvest and the biggest challenge faced by most wineries was finding a home for all the grapes. While it was a warm year, there were no major heat spikes meaning the fruit ripened at an even, unhurried pace. The ideal weather continued into the harvest with no pressure from Mother Nature to pick anything that was not perfectly ripe. the 2012s are rich, powerful and classic Napa Valley wines.

The Cornerstone Cellars 2012 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon articulates the intense, powerful character of the appellation while maintaining a balanced harmony of fruit, acidity and tannin structure carried over an opulent palate. Deep, intense aromas fill the glass with notes of blueberry, ripe plum, fresh violet, sweet baking spice with a hint of dark chocolate mocha leaping forth. A rich burst of sweet, ripe berry fruit greets the palate exploding into complex flavors of currants, blueberry, anise and cocoa with an intense core of cassis. Voluptuous and rich, the layered mouthfeel is well integrated with a full tannin structure and a freshness not often found in Howell Mountain Cabernet, seamlessly flowing to a long, flavorful, vibrant finish. 202 cases produced.