

## Cornerstone Cellars 2011 Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon



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. To further enhance this wine's incredibly rich layers of complexity and overall balance, a precise addition of Howell Mountain Merlot was made, which added to the wines tremendous body providing a suppleness to its lingering finish and a lively inner-mouth energy and lift was provided by our Carrefour Vineyard Cabernet Franc, both additions bring a unique harmony to our Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon.

Elegance and balance best describes the wines from Cornerstone Cellars. Numerous challenges were provided to viticulturists and winemakers throughout the 2011 vintage. What began with a wet winter and spring continued with rainfall into June that delayed bloom and disrupted fruit set. The mild, steady warmth of the summer months lacked any significant temperature spikes allowing the fruit to ripen slowly, but uniformly with fantastic flavor development. Unusually cool and wet weather returned September and October pushing the vintage even later, but we were rewarded in the end with weeks of amazing weather that provided needed ripening time. The commitment to quality runs deep in this valley so with our patience and the precision farming of our fantastic growers we were rewarded once again with elegant, well balanced wines.

The Cornerstone Cellars 2011 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.

- 95% Cabernet Sauvignon Ink Grade Vineyard, Howell Mountain, 4% Merlot, Ink Grade Vineyard, Howell Mountain; 1% Cabernet Franc Carrefour Vineyard, Coombsville Appellation
- Harvested early to late October, 2011 Aging: 22 months in French Bordeaux oak barrels 75% new
- Bottling Date: July 15th., 2013
- Cases Produced: 513 cases of 12 x 750 ml 30 bottles of 1.5 L