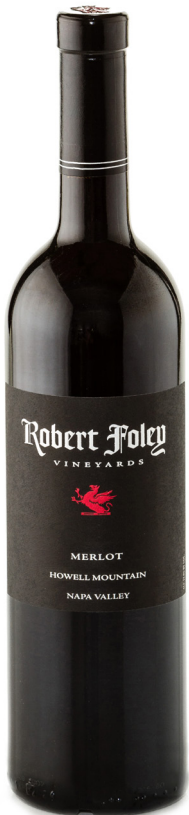


# Robert Foley

## VINEYARDS

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### **VERTICAL: 2015/2016/2017 HOWELL MOUNTAIN MERLOT**

Single-vineyard estate-grown Merlot from the vineyards surround the Robert Foley Vineyards winery facility at 2000 feet elevation on Howell Mountain.

This tiny block of Clone 3 Merlot grown in the forest on Howell Mountain delivers seductive aromas of red currant and cassis. The lush mid-palate is framed with lightly gripping tannin balanced with natural high-elevation acidity, delivering a long graceful finish. Likely the biggest Merlot you've tried.

### WINERMAKER NOTES

My first experience with Merlot grown on Howell Mountain was in the 1980s and I was astounded by the expression of Merlot grown in this Viticultural Area. In 2006, we planted Clone 3 Merlot from cuttings at the Paloma Vineyard on Spring Mountain, whose wines I produced during their first eight vintages beginning in 1994. I felt these were some of the best Merlot bottlings I have had the pleasure to craft in the 44 vintages I have worked with this grape variety and I was thrilled to bring this pedigree clone to our Howell Mountain Vineyard.

Most of the production from this small lot is blended into our Napa Valley Merlot, but we set aside one barrel each vintage to be bottled separately as a 100% Howell Mountain Merlot in order to share the experience. Only 24 cases are bottled each vintage and this offering is a three-vintage vertical.

*A note on 2017: The fires of October 8-9 of that year never threatened us on Howell Mountain. Our 2017 Merlot had been harvested a week before the fires started and was doubly safe in fermentors at the time.*

### SPECIFICATIONS

Wine: Howell Mountain Merlot  
Appellation: Howell Mountain, Napa Valley  
Vineyard: Robert Foley estate vineyard, Angwin, Calif.  
Harvest: Hand-picked late October each of the three years  
Vinification: Ten-day fermentation, French Oak barrels  
Alcohol: 14.8% - 15.2%  
Production: 96 verticals  
Winemaker: Bob Foley  
Retail price: \$225 for the 3-bottle vertical (not available individually)