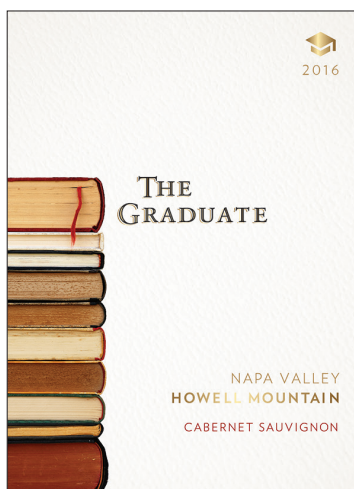


94 | Roots Run Deep

2016 Howell Mountain Napa Valley The Graduate Cabernet Sauvignon In 2017, Macario Montoya joined Mark Albrecht's team at Roots Run Deep as winemaker, responsible for blending four different "Higher Education" cabernets. Each originates at a different block in the vineyard, which ranges in elevation from 1,700 to 2,000 feet; each is fermented with a different strain of yeasts and aged in different cooperage. This one spends its time in Seguin Moreau barrels, and the blend includes five percent each of malbec and merlot from Pritchard Hill; those factors tame the dynamic power of its mountain-grown tannins, yielding a trumpet blare of volcanic-soil intensity. Having tasted all four, this one struck our panelists as the most vibrant, layering red, yellow and orange-toned fruit in sunset colors, lasting on herbs, smoke and depths of earthy savor. It's a complex wine, with all of its details aligned. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*



94 | Roots Run Deep

2016 Howell Mountain Napa Valley The Valedictorian Cabernet Sauvignon Like the 2016 Graduate, another label in this winery's "Higher Education" line of cabernets, this blend includes malbec and merlot; in this case, the malbec accounts for 10 percent of the blend, lessening the percentage of cabernet. The variety brings a sweetness to the wine, a candied plum note to counter the Howell Mountain rocky bitterness of tannins. This is powerful, sleek and generous—Howell Mountain unconstrained. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

