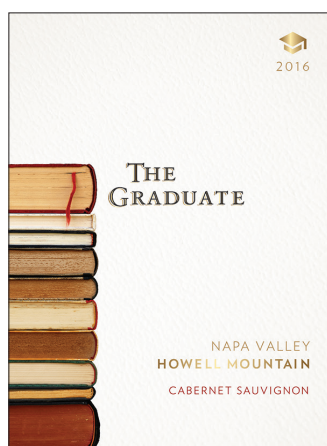


94 | **Roots Run Deep**

2016 Howell Mountain Napa Valley The Graduate Cabernet Sauvignon In 2017, Macario Montoya joined Mark Albrecht's team at Roots Run Deep as winemaker; he took on the blending of four 2016 "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.*

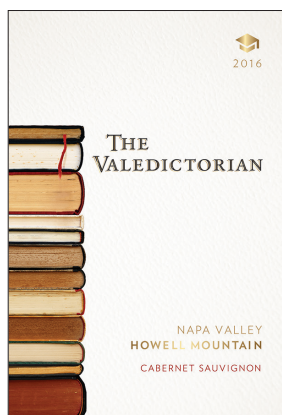


Wine & Spirits

Year's Best Cabernets

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 ten 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 its tannins. This is powerful, sleek and generous—Howell Mountain unconstrained. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

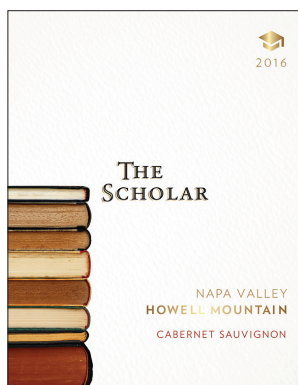


Wine & Spirits

Year's Best Cabernets

91 | Roots Run Deep

2016 Howell Mountain Napa Valley The Scholar Cabernet Sauvignon Part of a series of four “Higher Education” cabernets from a vineyard on Howell Mountain, The Scholar blends in a small amount of malbec and merlot from lower elevations. It’s violet scented, with a savory note of earth and game. The structure feels formal, the volcanic tannins lasting for minutes on the breath. Decant it if you open it now, to serve with grilled lamb. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*



Wine & Spirits

Year's Best Cabernets

90 | Roots Run Deep

2016 Howell Mountain Napa Valley The Ph.D Cabernet Sauvignon Mostly cabernet sauvignon from a high-elevation vineyard on Howell Mountain, The PhD contains two percent malbec and three percent merlot from the valley floor, pointing up some bright raspberry-like highlights over the black tannins. It's mouthcoating and dense when first opened, needing plenty of air to show itself with more clarity. For the cellar. *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

