



**Wine Profile**  
**Moone-Tsai 2009 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend**

**Tasting Notes**

Our 2009 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend is a powerful, concentrated wine that bears the hallmarks of this legendary merlot-growing region “above the fog”. Richly deep, dark red in hue, the wine presents a nose of wild berries and peppercorns. The mouth is dense and powerful, with black cherry, white pepper, and captivatingly complex dark, savory flavors. 24-months of aging in French oak provides the subtlety of sweet barrel spices that sustain throughout the finish. This wine is sure to evolve in the bottle over the next 5-10 years.

The grapes that made this wine were grown in an east-facing hillside Howell Mountain vineyard perched 2100 feet above the Napa Valley floor. The terraced vineyard is planted on an extreme slope, producing thick-skinned clusters capable of creating a wine with intensity, structure, elegance, and weight. Mountain lion and bear tracks are not uncommon finds in this remote vineyard.

**Winemaker:** **Philippe Melka**, Bordeaux-bred (*Chateau Haut Brion, Petrus*) and– recently heralded by Robert Parker as one of the top nine winemakers in the world. “*Where possible, I will minimize winemaking techniques in the cellar so I can create a wine that tells the story of the vineyard. In the end, it must be about the fruit.*”

**Wine Facts**

Varietal Composition:	75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet
Vineyards:	Howell Mountain – Block J1, N1, O2
Production:	424 cases
Harvest Date:	September 17-24, 2009
Cooperage:	60% new French oak, 40% 2-yr oak - St. Martin, Baron, Ermitage
Bottle Date:	March 18, 2012
Release Date:	Scheduled for September 2012

**For more information:** Visit [www.moonetsai.com](http://www.moonetsai.com), or contact [info@moonetsai.com](mailto:info@moonetsai.com), or via 707.738.0293