



Wine Profile
Moone-Tsai 2013 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend

Tasting Notes

With the rave reviews and rapid sell-out of its 2012 predecessor, our 2013 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend finds itself on the heels of a very “tough act to follow.” And yet, our prized blocks on this rustic hillside have come through once again...delivering a resounding testimonial to this remarkable AVA high above the fog line.

Deeply garnet in color, the wine presents a fascinating nose - expressing bewitching notes of black cherry, cedar, and hints of eucalyptus. The wine’s playful aromatics, however, prove to be a clever feint for the “dare-me” dance on the palate that ensues. Rich ripe, intense flavors intermingle teasingly ...calling out juicy blackberries and blueberries accented by wet stone, and a touch of savory wild mushrooms. While the wine’s underlying structure, complexity and nectary palate weight provide an unmistakable bass-line to its exuberant flavors and chewy tannins, the wine comes together splendidly for a finish that is long and satisfying. Carefully aged with 31% new French oak for 25 months, the wine will age handsomely over the next 12-15 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.

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:	71% Merlot, 29% Cabernet
Vineyards:	Howell Mountain – Block J1, N1, O2
Production:	579 cases
Harvest Date:	October 2 – October 8, 2013
Cooperage:	31% new French oak - St. Martin, Baron, Ermitage
Bottle Date:	February 10, 2016
Release Date:	Scheduled for June 2016

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