



MOONE • TSAI

Wine Profile

Moone-Tsai 2014 Howell Mountain Hillside Blend

Tasting Notes

This 2014 jewel in our trifecta of remarkable vintages stands and delivers. Indeed, with the addition of vibrant cabernet from our newly anointed Las Posadas block to our remarkable hillside merlots, this striking expression of what Howell Mountain can-do... lends veracity to the notion that “three is a charm”.

Ruby red in the glass, this tantalizing blend signals its arrival with precociously heady aromas of black cherry and plum, complemented by hints of lightly toasted anise and baking spices. True to the storied upper reaches of Howell Mountain, flavors of ripe blackberry, black tea and peppercorn give way to a rustic mid-palate, with a pleasing acidity, and notable structure in-play. Aged 26 months in 31% new French Oak, the wine’s oak framing reveals what comes when skilled handling is deftly applied to fruit from this heralded appellation. The result reveals a teasing, but feisty and focused Hillside Blend, whose muscularity and nimbleness present a beguiling, layering of juxtapositions. With the wine’s pre-release staged during this summer’s season of movie blockbusters, we invite you to consider how this blend might compare to the lithesome Diana, Princess of the Amazon’s (a.k.a. Gal Gadot of *Wonder Woman* fame).

The grapes that made this wine were grown in an east-facing hillside Howell Mountain vineyard perched 2100 feet above the Napa Valley floor, and from the remarkable Las Posadas Vineyard located just outside the Rancho. 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:	84% Merlot, 16% Cabernet
Vineyards:	Howell Mountain – IG-01, P-2, Las Posadas
Production:	900 cases
Harvest Date:	September 8 – 18 th 2014
Cooperage:	31% new French oak - St. Martin, Baron, Ermitage
Bottle Date:	February 15, 2017
Release Date:	Scheduled for September 2017

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