THE VICE

BATCH #117 "COYOTE LOSER"

"The Coyote is part of the natural ecosystem of our Howell Mountain vineyard. It's diet year-long is mainly carnivore, but when the coyote starts to feast on grapes, we know it is time to harvest.
The Coyote Loser is a term associated with a winemaker that quits their job in the middle of harvest."

Malek Amrani

2021 VINTAGE

The 2021 growing season started off with very little rain and continued to be a record year of drought. The result was also a record low yields and intensely- flavored, small sized berries. It was luckily a smooth and uneventful harvest season.

VINEYARD

Nested at an average elevation of 2000 feet and blessed with a unique micro-climate, our vineyard enjoys east, north and west sun exposure. When the fog blankets Napa Valley, it's sunny on Howell Mountain but it's also colder during the day. An average rainfall twice as much as the rest of the valley and a unique volcanic ash/red clay soil mix excellent for high drainage. This little difference makes Cabernet Sauvignon vines struggle to produce small clusters of tiny grapes. The smaller grapes have a higher skin-to-juice ratio resulting in deeper-colored wine with higher tannin.

TASTING NOTES

From the first sniff, "The Coyote" jumps off the glass with ripe aromas of dark berries, Chambord, and sweet tobacco notes. Muscular but defined, the palate shows waves of blackberry paste, plum reduction, cedar with plenty of toast. An immediate appeal for such a young Cab, with a wonderful sense of harmony and enough fruit to keep pace for years to come. An ultra-long finish that stretches for minutes, this winner is ready to play now or to cellar for decades to come.

- 100% Unfiltered and Un-fined Cabernet Sauvignon.
- 22 months of aging in New French Oak barrels.
- Sustainably grown fruit with minimal winemaking intervention.

"Tasting Howell Mountain Cabernet for the first time is like filling your cheeks with dried blackberries while smoking a cigar."