



2012 ABREU

Las Posadas

HOWELL MOUNTAIN, NAPA VALLEY

PROPERTY



When David Abreu purchased this Howell Mountain property in 2000 it came with an unexpected perk: first growth redwood stakes dating back over a century. Relics of an earlier era of agriculture.

“When the college owned this site they’d burn the underbrush, including the stakes, to keep it clean. When I came in we found them and set them all aside,” he says.



Mountains home - a rugged mountain range hemming the eastern edge of the Napa Valley. Surrounded by a protected forest of fir and pine, the vines enjoy abundant sunshine above the fog line of the Valley below. Its red Aiken soils are layered over white tufa, and the rocks that littered the site before it was planted now form walls defining the property. The redwood stakes – collected, stacked, preserved – await their next life.

Perched at 2,000 feet, Las Posadas vineyard calls the Vaca



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As our Las Posadas property evolves, the diverse nature of the plantings continues to reward us. Our Malbec, consistently the first variety to be picked each year, has proven itself a worthy partner in many co-ferments. On September 24, it was harvested alongside the Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon from the first two phases of the vineyard, planted in 2002 and 2006. This lot came together as the first component of the 2012 Las Posadas - an exotic, layered blending piece.

The higher elevation of the Las Posadas vineyard blesses us with a longer growing season. In 2012 our second harvest from this property was not until October 11. Nine separate blocks were selectively picked to create a Cabernet Sauvignon-based fermentation. A week later a core component of the blend came together with the harvest of a good amount of Cabernet Franc along with Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Finally, on October 20, the remaining fruit was picked to produce the last piece of the puzzle. These four fermentations all play a key role in the final blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 15% Petit Verdot, 5% Malbec and 5% Merlot.

BOTTLED: December 2014
RELEASE DATE: March 2017
WINEMAKER: Brad Grimes
PROPRIETOR: David Abreu

Undoubtedly, 2012 will be remembered as a superb vintage. We will also remember 2012 as the year this stunning mountain property came into its own, expressing itself cohesively and providing a glimpse of its full potential.



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COMPOSITION: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc,
Petit Verdot, Malbec, Merlot
PICK DATES: September 24, October 11, 18 & 20
PRODUCTION: 14 barrels

“Forest floor, floral notes, lead pencil shavings, licorice, fruitcake, cedar wood and oodles of black fruits soar from the glass and from the palate of this full-bodied, majestic, multi-layered wine.

Like most 2012s, it is really strutting its stuff. It is still obviously young, but dramatic and flamboyant.

This sensational wine should age effortlessly for 25-30+ years. Drink 2015 – 2045.”

Robert Parker—The Wine Advocate

“The 2012 Howell Mountain has really come together beautifully over the last year.

Deep and expressive in the glass, the Howell Mountain exudes richness and intensity.

Here, the tannins are naturally a bit firmer than in the St. Helena wines, but all things considered, this is a striking Howell Mountain Cabernet that won't take years or decades to come around. This is an especially translucent, vibrant wine for Howell Mountain. 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Cabernet Franc, 16% Petit

Verdot, 5% Malbec and 5% Merlot. Drink 2019 – 2032.”

Antonio Galloni—Vinous Media

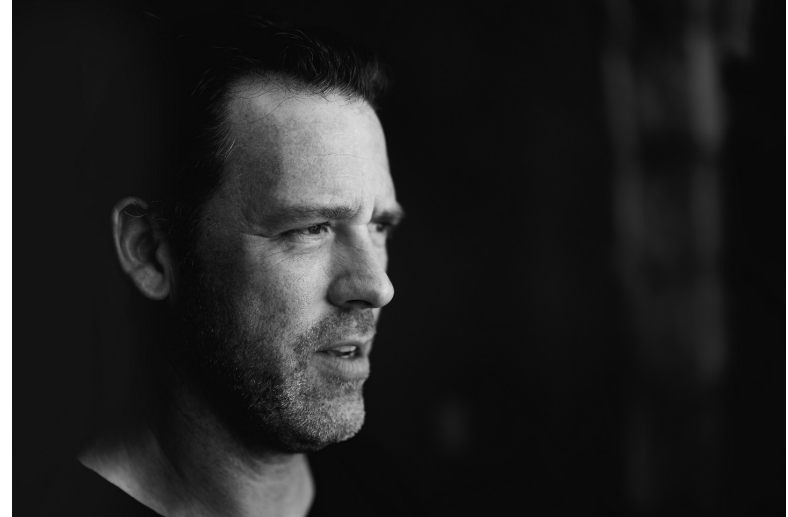


JOURNEY



Growing up, Napa Valley was David Abreu's playground as well as his classroom. Born into a family of ranchers, he spent the better part of his youth working in Napa's original vineyards. Over time, David's sense of what makes a site stand out—why one vineyard makes great wine and another's is just good—was sharpened beyond the ordinary. Eventually, intuition and experience led him to four exceptional vineyard properties: Madrona Ranch, Cappella, Las Posadas, and Thorevilos.

He planned and planted each one. And with an uncompromising—some might say insane—commitment to



quality, he and his crew farm them to perfection. Alongside Brad Grimes, a chef turned winemaker, he whittles one hundred barrels down to just 12,000 bottles of single-site Cabernet blends. You could call it passion beyond reason. And you may be right.

“When you work with a vineyard long enough, you get to know its personality. You know how to pull the best from it, no matter the vintage. That’s what it takes to make a great wine. A wine that might actually be around – to tell its own story – 100 years from now.”

David Abreu