



**2009 Outpost Howell Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon
Napa Valley**

<i>Release Date</i>	February 2012
<i>Appellation</i>	Howell Mountain 2200 feet above the Napa Valley floor
<i>Winemaker</i>	Thomas Rivers Brown
<i>Varietal composition</i>	95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.5% Cab Franc, 2.5% Merlot
<i>Production</i>	728 Cases
<i>Cooperage</i>	100% New French Oak Barrels

Winemaker Tasting Notes

Blending this wine is becoming harder every year as we see vine maturity increase at the estate. With now mature blocks of clone 6 and a clone we call Jenkins in the mix we have 7 or 8 lots to consider every vintage. Ultimately in one of the most marathon blending sessions we've ever had, only 4 made the cut. Balancing drinkability and intellectual interest, this wine has reached a nice place after six months in bottle. There's just enough tannin upfront to reveal its hillside origins but a dense, black-fruited core almost overwhelms the structure making the wine immensely pleasurable now. The multiple layers reveal crushed rock, blue and black fruits, graphite and white flowers.

