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2019 Beatty Ranch, Howell Mountain Zinfandel, Napa Valley

Napa Valley's true greatness lies in its diversity. 16 AVA's (American Viticultural Areas) are now identified throughout the entire county of Napa – each AVA recognized for geological traits such as soil types and weather patterns that contribute to its unique regional character. High in Napa Valley's eastern Vaca Mountain range, one of these AVA's is defined solely by *elevation* – Howell Mountain. First settled in the 1840's by Isaac Howell, winemakers such as Brun and Chaix, and Keyes soon followed. Wines grown in this sub-region drew world-wide attention to Napa Valley in the 1880's for red wines that won top awards in prestigious international competitions. A century later in 1983, Howell Mountain because of its special uniqueness became distinguished as the first sub AVA within the Napa Valley.

Starting at an altitude of 1,400 ft. above sea level, Beatty Ranch of Howell Mountain is uniquely positioned just above the Pacific Ocean's marine layer of morning fog that encroaches along the length of the Napa Valley on a daily basis throughout the growing season. At this lofty, sunny location summer daytime temperatures are cooler, nights are warmer, breezes are steady and the vines' moderate growing season more gradual. Soils formed on Howell Mountain by volcanic activity are extremely well-drained and the sunlight-soaked vines produce small berries of intense flavors and ripe tannins. Zinfandel thrives and survives here as the conditions for this thinner-skinned variety are ideal. These influences produce concentrated red wines with deep color, chocolatey black fruit and mineral character, fine acidity and balanced tannins. Howell Mountain red wines have a reputation among collectors for complexity, solid structure and long life.

This new Biale Howell Mountain Zinfandel comes from the iconic Beatty Ranch Vineyard and displays all the beautiful traits for which Howell Mountain is known. Only 220 cases were made.

Vintage Notes: A long, warm summer and mild finish to the season. The beginning of the 2019 growing season was defined by copious rainfall and late soil moisture. The long, warm summer saw very few extreme heat events, with foggy mornings setting the stage for vibrant and expressive wines. The long, relatively mild finish to the season, not without its moments of unpredictability, helped to preserve freshness and finesse in the fruit with abundant hang time teasing out great color, structure and soft tannins. Volume is looking to be about average to a little less than average. All in all, exceptional fruit with bright acidity and ample texture promises an amazing vintage.

Harvest Dates: 9-10-19

Alcohol: 14.8%

Winemaker's Tasting Notes: This substantial wine displays a beautiful array of cocoa, mocha, toffee, dark fruits, pear, and a salty/mineral note that interplays nicely with the ripe tannins and supple texture. It has lasting blackberry flavors and an elegant finish.