

Lail Vineyards

MOLE HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON
VINTAGE 2012, NAPA VALLEY



WINEMAKER NOTES

“Perfectly expressive of its Howell Mountain origins, the 2012 Mole Hill has a nose rich with star anise, boysenberry and blackberries. A well balanced palate shows dark cherry, dried sage, savory herbs, black raspberries and dark chocolate. So characteristic of this appellation, it has vibrant bright acidity and firm but fine, glossy and elegant tannins. Showing great balance and finesse, combined with power and scale, this 2012 Mole Hill is a showstopper!”

—Philippe Melka, *Winemaker*

PARTNERS	WINEMAKER
Robin Daniel Lail; Erin and Shannon Lail	Philippe Melka
VARIETAL	VINEYARD
100% Cabernet Sauvignon	Mole Hill Vineyard
BARREL REGIMEN	APPELLATION
18 months in French oak; 83% new	Howell Mountain

THE STORY

Mole Hill was named in homage to a wine created by Robin’s father, famous vintner John Daniel, Jr.

The story goes that when Daniel’s great friend, Louis Martini Sr., made a wine in the 1940s, the irony of him labeling it Mountain Red was not lost on Daniel because Martini’s wine was from a rolling hillside vineyard versus the precipitous mountain vineyards of Europe. A brilliant man with a celebrated sense of humor and a particular love of puns, Daniel responded with Inglenook Mole Hill Red, whose whimsical label featured a very cute mole with a magnifying glass checking a small pile of dirt. The overtly flowery back label concluded with “...and this is a wine you will truly GO FER!”

In 1994, the Lail family acquired a special vineyard site high atop Howell Mountain, and named it Mole Hill. The vineyard’s west-facing gentle slope has shallow soils with rocks that rise to the surface like cream in coffee, creating a spartan home for the vines and generating a concentration of flavors in the grapes. These thin, rocky and dry soil conditions create Cabernet Sauvignon with firm structure, incredible varietal intensity, and excellent aging properties.

We now make a Mole Hill out of a mountain!