

Lail Vineyards



MOLE HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON
VINTAGE 2013, NAPA VALLEY

WINEMAKER NOTES

“Deep purple/red in color, the 2013 Mole Hill has pure aromas of Asian spices, blackberry cream, boysenberry and black cherry. The palate adds notes of dark chocolate, black raspberry and briary spice. The regal, bright and persistent acidity drives the flavors across the tongue, while the fine and round tannins perfectly frame the creamy, long, and impeccably balanced finish. This is Howell Mountain at its very finest.”

—Philippe Melka, *Winemaker*

PARTNERS
Robin Daniel Lail;
Erin and Shannon Lail

WINEMAKER
Philippe Melka

VARIETAL
100% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARD
Mole Hill Vineyard

BARREL REGIMEN
20 months in French oak; 100% new

APPELLATION
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!