



Platinum Plus!

Bravante Vineyards | 2014 'TRIO' Red Wine Howell Mountain, Napa Valley

Neither George Bravante nor his wife-to-be Nancy had any idea a trip to Napa Valley forty years ago would have a profound effect on their lives. At the time, George was part of the Bass Family (oil and real estate company) of Ft. Worth's real estate division. The New Jersey native was simply visiting the Howell Mountain area of Napa when he decided he really liked what he saw.

Shortly thereafter, George Bravante purchased a piece of property there, simply because he liked the view. "It was then that people started telling me that some rows of vineyards would look really good in this meadow below the spot we intended to build a house," Bravante recalled. "We thought about it and agreed. Once I started into the farming end of the business, I found I really enjoyed it and the rest, as they say, is history."

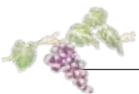
That was in 1980. By 1996, George Bravante was selling fruit to the likes of Robert Mondavi and other top Napa Valley wineries. Again, close friends began encouraging him to make some wine on his own. After all, the Howell Mountain Appellation (awarded in 1984) was among the most coveted in Napa Valley and the home to such winery powerhouses as Dunn, Turley, La Jota, and many more. Rugged and remote, Howell Mountain was arguably California's top Cabernet Sauvignon growing area.

The Bravantes made the decision to get into the winery business and partnered with old friends who shared their vision for crafting great wines and uncompromising quality. Built on twenty acres of undeveloped land on Howell Mountain, the Bravante Estate Stone Ridge Vineyard was planted in early 1998 by Viticulturist Peter Murphy to Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Another small vineyard, just down the road, was acquired in 2000 and planted to the same three varietals, plus small amounts of Sauvignon Blanc Musque, Petit Verdot, and Malbec.

The Bravantes also teamed up with winemaker Duane Dappen, who has been involved with the winery's production since the beginning, celebrating his twentieth year with Bravante Vineyards in 2019. Dappen's extensive resume includes experience with Grigich Hills and Rombauer to name a couple. His mark on Bravante Vineyards' portfolio became immediately apparent from the get-go, as the winery began garnering impressive scores and earning numerous awards in top competitions. In 2007, the respected *Wine & Spirits* magazine even named Bravante Vineyards its **Winery of the Year**, a distinctive award from the prestigious periodical.

Bravante Vineyards unveiled its intricately designed, state-of-the-art estate winery and cave in 2009, gaining the coveted status of being 100% estate grown, produced and bottled.

"We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished," Bravante finalized. "We took a simple plan and it came out better than anyone expected. We now have a complete story to tell." Over the years, Bravante Vineyards has taken its place among Howell Mountain's revered wineries and has kept to its premium style in the manner Bravante and his partners chose to pursue. We are proud to offer one of their award-winning selections to our members.



Accolades & Tasting Notes

92 POINTS - *Wine & Spirits* magazine

The Bravante 2014 'TRIO' Red Wine is an estate blend of three Bordeaux grape varieties - 44.7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37.8% Merlot, and 17.5% Cabernet Franc. Offering a bright nose of berries and plums with hints of crushed herbs and wild mushrooms, this full-bodied wine has a big palate of summer berries and rich cassis with hints of wild thyme and dried lavender. The tannins are big and smooth, and the rich flavors carry into the long, luscious finish. Aged in oak. Enjoy!



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