2015 Buehler Vineyards Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

Situated in the mountains above Conn Valley and near the base of Howell Mountain, the Buehler Estate vineyards are planted primarily to Cabernet Sauvignon. The juxtaposed topography of steeply sloped hillsides with eastern exposures against very gently sloping hills with southern and southwestern exposures hints at the tumultuous geologic past of the Estate; extensive faulting resulted in at least three distinct soil types. Not surprisingly, grapes grown on the different soils give different characteristics to the finished wines; these differences are often as great as the differences between various Bordeaux varieties and allow us to blend within the variety of Cabernet Sauvignon to craft a truly multi-faceted Estate wine.

The 2015 Napa Valley harvest delivered an early, high quality Cabernet Sauvignon crop that left us wishing for more of a good thing. After a warm, early spring, the cool May weather interrupted fruit set and the resulting lighter clusters translated to a smaller than normal crop. As with most early harvests, the late October rains were welcomed since all grapes had long been picked and were safely fermenting away at the winery.

After the completion of the primary fermentation, the wine was immediately delivered to barrels to initiate the secondary malolactic fermentation. The wine was aged 18 months in barrels: 35% of which were new French oak, and 5% of which were new American oak barrels.

The aromas hint at black fruit: ripe black cherries and black plums. Enticing barrel qualities of cola and spice complement the fruit aromas. On the palate, the wine shows layers of deeply extracted flavors that only mature hillside vineyards can render. Our Estate Cabernet is the most age-worthy wine we produce and may be enjoyed anytime over the next 15 years. For those who seek youthful fresh cabernet fruit aromas and a more structured wine, drink it from 2017 through 2021. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2022–2032.

David Cronin

Winemaker

Appellation/Designation Napa Valley/Estate Bottled

Varietal Composition 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Brix at Harvest 26.3

TA 0.64 g/100 ml

pH 3.72 Alcohol 14.7% vol Production 2800 cases

Suggested Retail \$40

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Brilliance in Napa Valley: The 2016 & 2015 Cabernets - Parts 1-3

BY ANTONIO GALLONI | JANUARY 12, 2018

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BUEHLER 2015 NAPA VALLEY ESTATE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Dark cherry, plum, mocha and licorice are all amped up in the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Estate. Ripe, unctuous and supple, the Estate offers lovely depth and textural richness from start to finish. This silky, pliant Cabernet will drink well with minimal cellaring.

-- Antonio Galloni

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BUEHLER VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ESTATE 2015

Shows tension and fruit with a fresh balance of firm tannins and dark fruits. Hints of blackberry and earth. Medium to full body. Drink in 2019.