

**2015 Buehler Vineyards Papa's Knoll Cabernet Sauvignon**

Historically, we've produced one Estate Cabernet Sauvignon at Buehler Vineyards in which we blend wines from various vineyard blocks: a melding of the disparate characteristics into one whole wine. From time to time, we're tempted to showcase a particular vineyard block for its unique character by bottling it on its own. Beginning with the 2004 vintage, we gave in to the temptation and bottled a very limited amount of wine from Papa's Knoll's vineyard which is only sold directly from the winery or through our wine club.

**What is Papa's Knoll and where is it located?** Named after the landform in front of "Papa's" (The late John Buehler, Sr.) house, this is our oldest vineyard block of Cabernet Sauvignon. The face of the knoll is steeply terraced with an easterly exposure; the top of the knoll is best described as a shallow bowl with no rim on the south side. This three acre block was planted in 1971 and is the only dry-farmed Cabernet block on the estate. The fact that we have to pay the pickers by the hour rather than by the ton to pick this block is testament to the ruggedness and inaccessibility of this block that routinely gives us little more than two tons of grapes per acre.

**What differentiates the wines from Papa's Knoll from our other vineyard blocks?** A few terms spring to mind: power, color, depth. If a dark, lushly textured, concentrated wine is your goal, this wine argues that dry-farming old vines is a good way to achieve it.

Papa's Knoll is typically the first block harvested off the Estate; dry-farming as well as the light-cropped nature of this block ensures that it delivers its bounty a full 7-20 days earlier than our other Estate blocks.

**Tasting observations:** The color is skewed to the blue end of the Cabernet spectrum and is opaque in nature. The aromas hint at black fruit: ripe black cherries and black plums. Enticing barrel qualities of cola spice and a hint of dried tarragon complement the fruit aromas.

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.

On the palate, the wine shows layers of deeply extracted flavors that only old vine hillside vineyards can render. Papa's Knoll Cabernet may be enjoyed anytime over the next 20 years. For those who seek youthful fresh cabernet fruit aromas and a more structured wine, drink it from 2017 through 2023. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2024-2037.

*David Conin*

Winemaker

Appellation/Designation	Napa Valley/Estate Bottled Papa's Knoll
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	26.0
New Oak	50% French
TA	0.65 g/100 ml
PH	3.71
Alcohol	14.6% vol
Production	340 cases
Suggested Retail	\$50

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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

#### PAPA'S KNOLL

The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Papa's Knoll is superb. A rush of dark cherry jam, mocha, new leather, spice and rose petal notes develop as the Papa's Knoll shows off its inviting personality. Even with all of its intensity, the 2015 has preserved wonderful freshness and aromatic lift throughout. There is so much to admire.

-- Antonio Galloni