

2016 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 2016 Napa Valley harvest delivered an early, high quality Cabernet Sauvignon crop that left us wishing for more of a good thing. Yields across our Estate vineyards were down an average of 20% or so from 2015. Average daytime high temperatures were also slightly below average making for slower, more even ripening as well as a less frenzied pace at the winery. 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 2018 through 2024. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2025-2038.

David Cronin
Winemaker

Appellation/Designation	Napa Valley/Estate Bottled Papa's Knoll
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	26.0
New Oak	45% French
TA	0.67 g/100 ml
PH	3.74
Alcohol	14.7% vol
Production	340 cases
Suggested Retail	\$60.00

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	Vintage	(Hover for Commentary) Producer	Name	Tasting Notes	Score	Author	Drinking Window	Release Price	Review Date
<input type="checkbox"/> ☆	2016	Buehler Vineyards	<u>Cabernet Sauvignon Papa's Knoll</u>	<p>Buehler's 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Papa's Knoll, the top wine in this range, brings together all the elements that make these wines so appealing. Supple, juicy and inviting, the Papa's Knoll offers terrific density while retaining the perfume and gracious, mid-weight personality that is such a Buehler signature. A touch of French oak adds raciness to this attractive, inviting Cabernet Sauvignon. Best of all, the 2016 will drink well with minimal cellaring.</p> <p>-- Antonio Galloni</p>	92	Antonio Galloni	2020 - 2031	\$60.00	Dec 2018

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BUEHLER VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY PAPA' S KNOLL

2016



Monday, November 19, 2018

Country	United States
Region	California
Vintage	2016

Score
92

Ripe, spicy red plums and cherries with some nuances of raisins as well as leafy notes. The palate has a very smooth, seamless and plush feel with ripe, red to dark fruit twisting spicily through the finish. Drink now to 2024.

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2016 Buehler • Cabernet Sauvignon Papa's Knoll

2016 ▼



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Rating

90

Release Price

\$60

Drink Date

2019 - 2030

Reviewed by

🏆 [Lisa Perrotti-Brown](#)

Issue Date

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Source

[Mid-October 2018 New Releases, The Wine Advocate](#)

Very deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Papa's Knoll displays intense notions of warm plums, crushed black berries and black cherries with touches of garrigue, baking spices and dried herbs. Medium to full-bodied, plushly textured and with mouth-filling black fruits, it finishes pleasantly spicy.