

2016 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel

The grapes we choose for our 2016 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel come exclusively from our low-yielding estate vineyards. Dry-farmed for over 29 years, our 4.5 acre estate block consists of mature forty-two year-old vines which typically give us around 2.5 tons/acre of beautiful hillside Zinfandel fruit. Interspersed among the head-trained vines are a handful of Petite Sirah vines representing perhaps 5% of the total vines in this block. A traditional field companion to Zinfandel in pre-prohibition California vineyards, Petite Sirah contributes pepper, color, and tannin structure to the wine.

The 2016 Napa Valley harvest delivered an early, high quality Zinfandel crop that left us wishing for more of a good thing. Yields across our Napa Valley 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.

Our Zinfandel was aged for 12 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels, 20% of which were new. At this level of “new wood”, the up-front endearing quality of Zinfandel can assert itself. Aromas of a briar patch on a hot summer day carry over to the palate and are carried in a mouth-filling, deeply layered, juicy package. The wine was crafted for immediate enjoyment but for those who enjoy a more complex wine displaying some bottle-aged character, aging for another two to three years is a good option.

David Cronin
Winemaker

Appellation	Napa Valley
Designation	Estate Bottled
Brix at Harvest	26.5
TA	0.61 g/100 ml
pH	3.78
Alcohol	14.9%
RS	0.05 g/100 ml
Production	1,000 cases
Suggested Retail	\$25.00

Wine Spectator

TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

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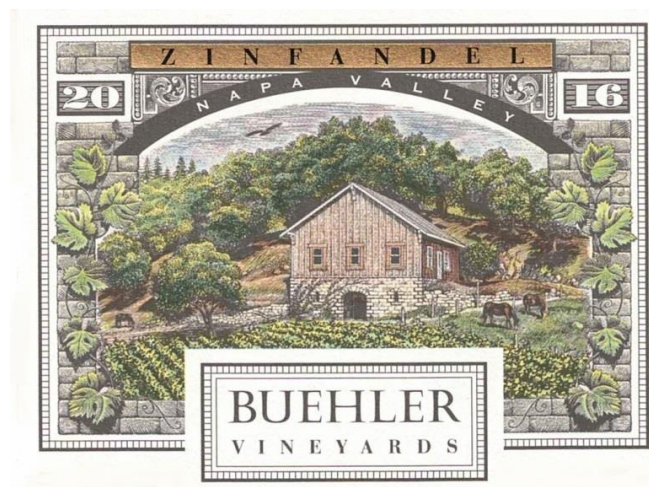


Buehler's 2016 Zin is the highest scoring wine in this report. (Lindsay Buehler Garvey)

Jul 8, 2019

Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.

Zinfandel should be your go-to red for great value from California. While many top Zins fetch \$60 or more, this week's collection of new releases focuses on wines priced \$25 or less. They deliver rich flavors, personality and easy drinking—ideal for a lazy summer day.



BUEHLER

Zinfandel Napa Valley 2016

Score: 90 | \$25

WS review: A structured and refined Zinfandel, with vibrant cherry, dried sage and pepper accents that build richness toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2024. 950 cases made.—*T.F.*