

2017 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 across various Bordeaux varieties and allow us to blend within the variety of Cabernet Sauvignon to craft a truly multi-faceted Estate wine.

The 2017 Napa Valley growing season began with record-setting amounts of rain through early April. Growers were challenged by the resulting vine vigor; what initially appeared to be a larger than average crop was tempered by subsequent weather in June. Foggy mornings combined with several heat spikes made for smaller clusters and so our crop ended up a little below average in terms of quantity in the end. Very high temperature the last week of August ensured that picking was under way by the second week of September. Temperatures then moderated and we able to complete the harvest at a more even-paced tempo. Fortunately, the catastrophic fires that began October 8 did not impact our wine; we finished harvesting our Estate Cabernet Sauvignon on October 6.

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 2020 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 2024-2034.

David Cronin
Winemaker

Appellation/Designation Napa Valley/Estate Bottled	
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	26.2
TA	0.64 g/100 ml
pH	3.71
Alcohol	14.5% vol
Production	2800 cases
Suggested Retail	\$45.00

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TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

9 Outstanding Napa Cabernet Values

New reviews of California reds that show Napa's potential for making affordable Cabernet Sauvignons, each earning 90 points or more

By Aaron Romano

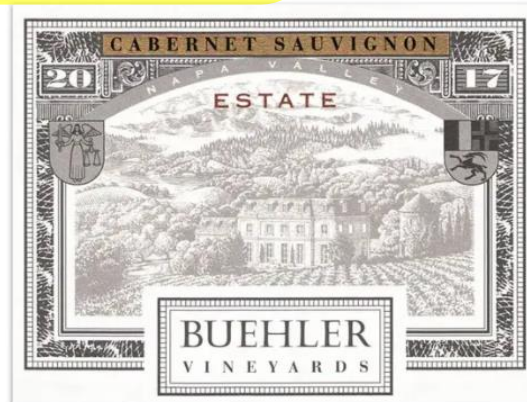


■ Nov 16, 2020

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.

It's no secret that Cabernet reigns as king in Napa Valley. This week's selection of outstanding reds features well-known names as well as new brands to watch. Whether their name is old or new, they all offer great value at \$50 or less, with many made in sizable volumes.

Founded in 1964 by Sir Peter Newton, [Sterling](#) is one of Napa's best-known wineries. Winemaker Harry Hansen uses grapes from estate vineyards around Calistoga to provide a solid foundation for this Cabernet, with additional grapes coming from vineyards throughout the valley. Another Napa mainstay, the [Buehler](#) family, has been farming Cabernet Sauvignon for more than four decades. Their 2017 estate Cabernet is bright, with red currant and damson plum notes.



BUEHLER

Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley Estate 2017

Score: 90 | \$45

WS review: Bright and slightly high-pitched in style, with red currant and damson plum notes carried by alder and sassafras threads. A light bramble note underscores the finish. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Drink now through 2027. 2,800 cases made.—*J.M.*