

2021 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel

The grapes we chose for our 2021 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel came exclusively from our low-yielding estate vineyards. Dry-farmed for over 34 years, our 4.5 acre estate block consists of mature forty-seven 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 2021 growing season will be remembered as an early, even paced one that delivered a smaller than average crop with virtually none of the heat spikes we sometimes experience. A drought year, 2021 saw virtually all the rain fall between January and early March. The lack of rain during flowering set the stage for very even ripening; ripe, mature tannins and deep color are hallmarks of this Zinfandel vintage. Our first rain event came on October 24 when all of our Zinfandel was safely in the winery.

After a 5-day cold soak, our Zinfandel was fermented in the mid-70s F using yeast of moderate vigor to extend the fermentation time which gives us deep, stable color as well as deeply layered flavors. Our Zinfandel was aged for 12 months in a combination of French and American oak barrels, 15% 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, 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
Brix at Harvest	26.8
TA	0.59 g/100 ml
pH	3.53
Alcohol	14.9%
RS	0.05 g/100 ml (dry)
Production	615 cases
Suggested Retail	\$30

Wine Spectator

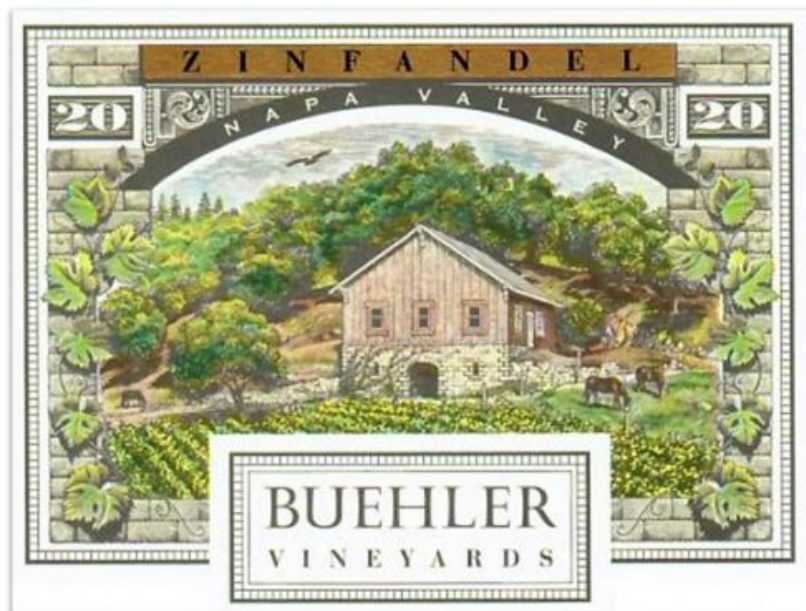
TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

10 Zesty California Zinfandels at 90+ Points

By Tim Fish

April 10, 2023

The [Zinfandel](#) grape came to the Golden State in the mid-19th century and was popular among early Italian immigrants who yearned for the hearty reds of home. Since then, it has become thoroughly California's signature wine grape. However, Zinfandel's origins were a mystery for years until DNA testing traced its roots to a Croatian variety named Crljenak. It's also genetically identical to Southern Italy's Primitivo. This week's selection of new releases highlights Zinfandels from California's Sonoma and Napa Valley regions, all scoring 90 points or higher on [Wine Spectator's 100-point scale](#).



BUEHLER

Zinfandel Napa Valley 2020

Score: 90 | \$30

WS review: Focused and plump, with zesty cherry flavors that are accented with licorice and savory spices and build toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2029. 1,140 cases made.—*T.F.*