

2020 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel

The grapes we chose for our 2020 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel came exclusively from our low-yielding estate vineyards. Dry-farmed for over 33 years, our 4.5 acre estate block consists of mature forty-six 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 early 2020 Napa Valley growing season was notable for the warm, dry conditions that persisted through late February. It wasn't until March that we welcomed cool, wet weather; the late Spring rains supplied the wakening vines with the water they needed for their rapid Spring growth. No discussion of the 2020 vintage would be complete without mention of the multiple wildfires that tore through wine country starting August 17 after a series of thunderstorms rolled through the state culminating in multiple fires ignited by the associated lightning strikes. The Hennessey fire was the closest to Buehler Vineyards but we were spared the ravages of smoke on our wines since the prevailing winds pushed the fire to the east of us. The Glass fire, which started September 27 and burned just to the west of us, forced us to evacuate the winery for several days. Fortunately, we had completed the Zinfandel and Cabernet harvest on the estate by then so the resulting wines were unscathed by the smoke.

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
Brix at Harvest	26.8
TA	0.58 g/100 ml
pH	3.59
Alcohol	14.9%
RS	0.05 g/100 ml (dry)
Production	1140 cases
Suggested Retail	\$30

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Wine Spectator

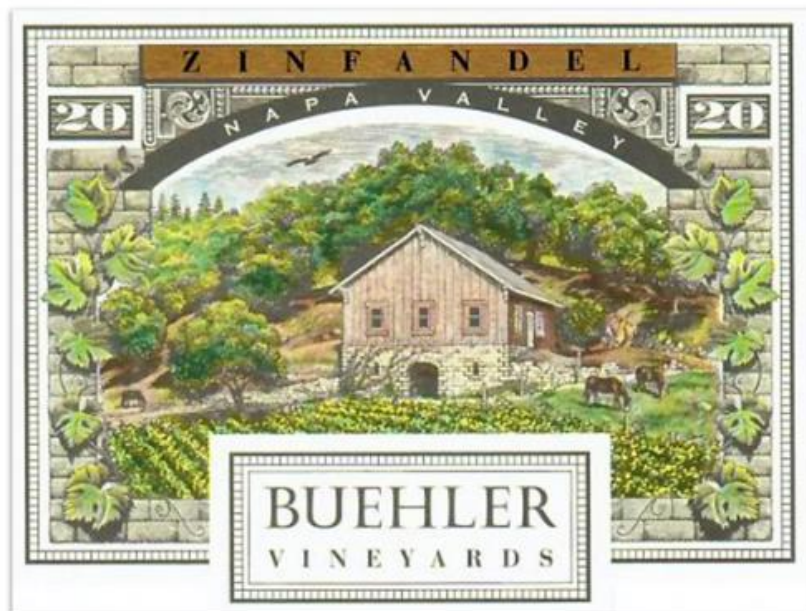
TASTING HIGHLIGHTS

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.*