

2006 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 between various Bordeaux varieties and allow us to blend within the variety of Cabernet Sauvignon to craft a truly multi-faceted Estate wine.

The 2006 growing season shares the later-than-normal theme of 2005; late spring rains delayed bud-break and the harvest was approximately two to three weeks later than "normal" in getting started. Following a July heat spell, temperatures moderated to provide very even-ripening conditions that persisted through a beautiful Indian summer in October.

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 give. 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 2008 through 2012. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2013-2023.

David Cronin
Winemaker

Appellation/Designation	Napa Valley/Estate Bottled
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	25.5
TA	0.61 g/100 ml
PH	3.72
Alcohol	14.82% vol
Production	3000 cases
Suggested Retail	\$36.00

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