

2010 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel

The grapes we choose for our 2010 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel are a mix of those off our estate vineyards and grapes from other select Napa Valley high quality, low-yielding vineyards. Dry-farmed for over 23 years, our 4.5 acre estate block consists of mature thirty-eight 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 end result of the cool, rainy spring of 2010 was ultimately a harvest that began about two weeks later than "normal". Growers struggled to meet the demands of the 2010 growing season as the late spring and cool summer required more hand work in the vineyard to ensure that the grapes delivered at harvest were of the usual optimum quality. We started harvesting our Napa Zinfandel September 30. In typical fashion for a harvest that begins later than normal, the 2010 harvest lasted a total of four weeks instead of the typical six weeks; there was no rest for the crush crew until the Thanksgiving Feast was served.

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, flavorful, 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	3.79
Alcohol	14.9%
RS	0.15 g/100 ml
Production	2900 cases
Suggested Retail	\$19

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