

2017 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel

The grapes we choose for our 2017 Buehler Vineyards Napa Valley Zinfandel come exclusively from our low-yielding estate vineyards. Dry-farmed for over 30 years, our 4.5 acre estate block consists of mature forty-three 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 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 as soon as the morning fogs returned about a week later. Fortunately, the catastrophic fires that began October 8 were not a threat to our Zinfandel since it was safely aging in barrels by then.

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

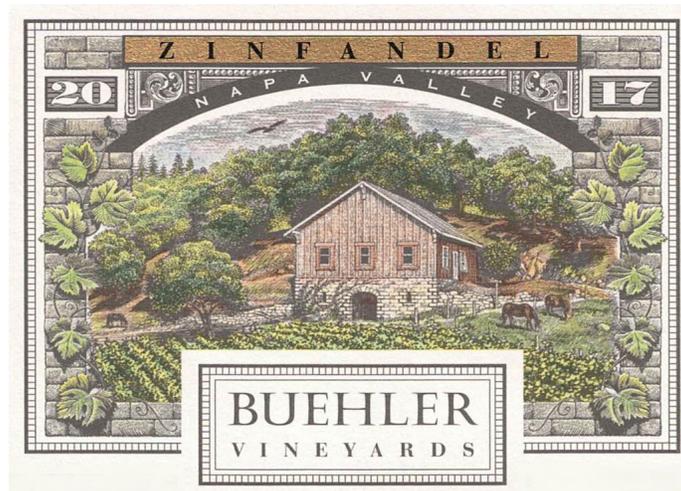
Appellation	Napa Valley
Brix at Harvest	26.5
TA	0.61 g/100 ml
pH	3.71
Alcohol	14.9%
RS	0.05 g/100 ml (dry)
Production	775 cases
Suggested Retail	\$25

AS SEEN IN JUNE/JULY 2020

WINE ENTHUSIAST[®]

BUYING GUIDE

90 points



90 **Buehler 2017 Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** This well-made red wine is fruity, softly textured and full in weight. Supple tannins lend balance between flavors of brambly blackberry, cherry, dried herb and baking spice. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25