

2019 Buehler Vineyards Papa's Knoll Cabernet Sauvignon

Historically, we've produced one Estate Cabernet Sauvignon at Buehler Vineyards in which we blend wines from various vineyard blocks: a melding of the disparate characteristics into one whole wine. From time to time, we're tempted to showcase a particular vineyard block for its unique character by bottling it on its own. Beginning with the 2004 vintage, we gave in to the temptation and bottled a very limited amount of wine from Papa's Knoll's vineyard which is only sold directly from the winery or through our wine club.

What is Papa's Knoll and where is it located? Named after the landform in front of "Papa's" (The late John Buehler, Sr.) house, this is our oldest vineyard block of Cabernet Sauvignon. The face of the knoll is steeply terraced with an easterly exposure; the top of the knoll is best described as a shallow bowl with no rim on the south side. This three-acre block was planted in 1971 and is the only dry-farmed Cabernet block on the estate. The fact that we pay the pickers by the hour rather than by the ton to pick this block is testament to the ruggedness and inaccessibility of this block that routinely gives us little more than two tons of grapes per acre.

What differentiates the wines from Papa's Knoll from our other vineyard blocks? A few terms spring to mind: power, color, depth. If a dark, lushly textured, concentrated wine is your goal, this wine argues that dry-farming old vines is a good way to achieve it.

Papa's Knoll is typically the first block harvested off the Estate; dry-farming as well as the light-cropped nature of this block ensures that it delivers its bounty a full 7-20 days earlier than our other Estate blocks.

Tasting observations: The color is skewed to the blue end of the Cabernet spectrum and is opaque in nature. The aromas hint at black fruit: ripe black cherries and black plums. Enticing barrel qualities of cola spice and a hint of dried tarragon complement the fruit aromas.

The 2019 growing season was notable for the generous late rains that made for robust spring growth. Summer saw few heat spikes and the warm days were tempered by many foggy mornings. A long growing season, 2019 will be remembered for providing extended hang time that resulted in intensely flavored fruit with good natural acidity for those winemakers that exercised patience. We harvested Papa's Knoll block on October 1, 2019.

On the palate, the wine shows layers of deeply extracted flavors that only old vine hillside vineyards can render. Papa's Knoll Cabernet may be enjoyed anytime over the next 20 years. For those who seek youthful fresh cabernet fruit aromas and a more structured wine, drink it from 2022 through 2027. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2028-2041.

David Cronin
Winemaker

Appellation/Designation	Napa Valley/Estate Bottled Papa's Knoll
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	25.8
New Oak	45% French
TA	0.64 g/100 ml
PH	3.77
Alcohol	14.6% vol
Production	480 cases
Suggested Retail	\$65

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**BUEHLER VINEYARDS CABERNET
SAUVIGNON NAPA VALLEY ESTATE
PAPA'S KNOLL 2019**

June 23rd 2022

92 points

Nuanced blackberries, spices and red chili chocolate on the nose. This is a juicy, medium-to-full-bodied cab with fine-grained, creamy tannins that coat the flavorful palate evenly, leading to a long, flattering finish. Drink or hold