

## 2011 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 end result of the cool, rainy spring of 2011 was ultimately a harvest that began about two to three weeks later than "normal". Growers struggled to meet the demands of the 2011 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 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon October 25. In typical fashion for a harvest that begins later than normal, the 2011 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.

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 render. 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 2013 through 2017. If you prefer the less fruity, more developed bottle bouquet aromas and a softer, more velvety wine on the palate, drink it from 2018-2028.

David Cronin  
Winemaker

Appellation/Designation	Napa Valley/Estate Bottled
Varietal Composition	100% Cabernet Sauvignon
Brix at Harvest	25.2
TA	0.60 g/100 ml
PH	3.75
Alcohol	14.4% vol
Production	1500 cases + 40 etched 3-liters + 10 etched 6-liters
Suggested Retail	\$36.00

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