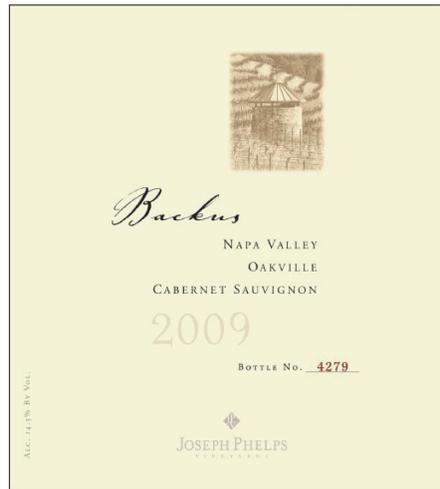


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2009

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 11 - 23, 2009.

**Blend:** 100% estate-grown Cabernet Sauvignon from our Backus Vineyard in Oakville, Napa Valley.

**Aging:** 24 months in 100% new French oak from coopers Taransaud, Marcel Cadet and Darnajou before bottling in February 2012.

**Winemaking Notes:** Grapes were picked in the early morning hours before the sun spills over the eastern hillside of Napa Valley. Each block was then hand-sorted separately and moved to stainless steel tanks for a cold soak of three to five days before fermentation, followed by extended macerations of twenty-six days on average prior to French oak aging. The complexity of the Backus Vineyard can be highlighted through the fruit and depth we find in the north and plateau blocks, tannin in the south block and elegance from the old vines originally planted in 1975. Wine lots from each distinct area of the vineyard remain separate prior to blending in order to fully develop their distinctiveness.

The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon from Backus Vineyard shows classic Oakville graphite, forest floor and dark fruit characteristics with an elegant tannin structure. Beautiful, creamy texture and minerality showcase the dark plum, blueberry and cassis flavors with notes of violet and allspice that follow through to a long, smooth finish.

**Growing Season:** The 2009 growing season was marked by normal spring rainfall that ended in early May to help recharge the soil moisture profile just in time for a heat spike in mid-May. June and July were cooler months, August recorded normal weather patterns and September was warmer than normal. Evening temperatures during the warm patterns remained cool enough to allow for better vine recovery from each day's heat.

Veraison began during the first two weeks of August and Brix levels at harvest rarely exceeded 25°. The color and concentration combined with flavor development, were good indicators that full maturity had been achieved. The first block picked at Backus was the North block on September 11th and the last block to be harvested was the Plateau block on September 23rd. All of the Backus fruit was picked before the late October rains.

**Review:** (94-97) Points, "The 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard sweeps across the palate with deep, expressive layers of dark red fruit, flowers, mint and crushed rocks." -Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*, Dec. 23, 2011.