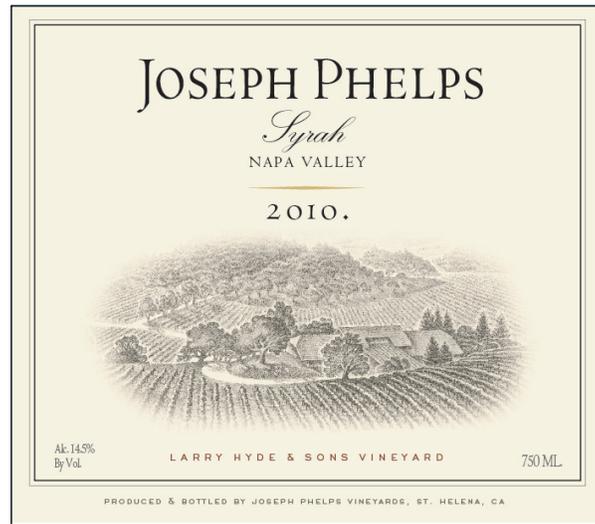


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Syrah, Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard, Napa Valley 2010

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** October 23, 2010.

**Blend:** 100% Napa Valley Syrah from the Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard.

**Winemaking Notes:** This year we picked before sunrise under lights at an average of 24.4° Brix to control temperature and freshness. Three blocks were fermented separately, one whole cluster and two whole berry, in stainless steel without macerations for the first week, followed by regular punch downs until the desired texture was achieved. The wine was aged for eighteen months in 37% new and 63% two-year-old French oak (a mixture of puncheons and barrels) before bottling in July, 2012. The barrel coopers included Ermitage, Sirugue and Saint Martin.

This is the second year we have worked with this block from Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard. This site has a typically cooler climate than the Hyde Vineyard we work with in Carneros and defines the aromatics and flavors of Syrah perfectly. The 2010 wine offers perfumed aromas of violet, allspice, blackberry, plum and hints of dark chocolate. The balance of fruit and freshness on the palate captures the layers of dark fruit, cassis, graham cracker, licorice, nutmeg and white pepper followed by supple, rich tannins.

**Growing Season:** The 2010 growing season experienced earlier bud break than 2009, but flowering and veraison occurred up to two weeks later. A prolonged frost season lasted until the end of May followed by mild early summer temperatures. Veraison was 50% complete by mid-August and two heat spikes, the first in late August and the second at the end of September, helped to propel ripening. Temperatures in September and October were consistently on the warm side until rain in the third week of October.

Overall quality was exceptional despite initial concerns due to the cool growing season and late rains. Structure, color and fruit expression in the wines are truly balanced and some of the best over the last decade.

**Review:** (90-92) Points, "... offering scents of black raspberry, mint, game, pungent spices and exotic flowers." -*Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May, 2012.*