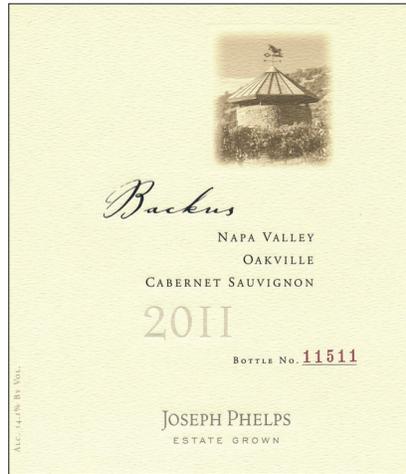


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2011

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 30 - October 13, 2011.

**Blend:** 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Petit Verdot and 3% Malbec from our Backus Vineyard in Oakville, Napa Valley.

**Aging:** 24 months in 100% new French oak barrels from coopers Taransaud, Marcel Cadet and Darnajou before bottling in February 2014.

**Winemaking Notes:** Each block was handpicked and sorted separately, then fermented in stainless steel and concrete tanks. The complexity of the Backus Vineyard can be highlighted through the fruit and depth we find in the North and Plateau blocks, structure 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 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon from Backus Vineyard highlights classic eastern Oakville graphite, violet, earth and dark fruit characteristics. Creamy texture and minerality showcase the blueberry, black plum jam, baking spice, cigar box and mocha notes that linger throughout the deeply lush finish.

**Growing Season:** The 2011 growing season began normally with bud break occurring at the end of March. However, due to cool weather, bloom completed two to three weeks later than normal. By mid-June, preparations were underway for the unusually cool growing season. Vines were forced into competition for water by leaving cover crop untilled, delaying irrigation and cluster thinning. An eleven-day warming trend in mid-September helped push grape maturation. The first Backus block was picked on September 30th. Despite mid-season rain and cool weather in 2011, blends were carefully selected and the wines are fresh, will be long lived, and no doubt continue to evolve and develop.

**Reviews:** (95-98) Points, "The 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard boasts a nearly eternal finish. It is an exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon and without question one of the wines of the vintage." -Antonio Galloni's *Vinous Media*, Nov. 2013 ~ and ~ (91-93) Points, "The bouquet includes attractive notes of scorched earth, chocolate, espresso roast, red and black currants and hints of underbrush and earth." -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Oct. 2013.