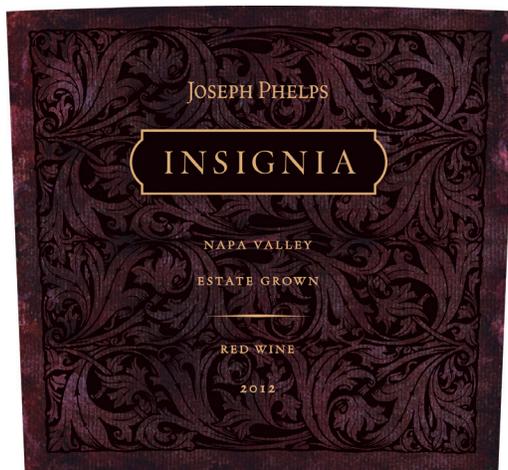


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps INSIGNIA, Napa Valley 2012

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** October 3 - 29, 2012.

**Blend:** 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 10% Merlot, 3% Malbec and 2% Cabernet Franc from 100% estate-grown Napa Valley vineyards:

- Stags Leap District, 17% Barboza Vineyard and 10% Las Rocas Vineyard
- Napa Valley, 22% Suscol Vineyard
- St. Helena, 18% Home Ranch Vineyard
- Oak Knoll District, 18% Yountville Vineyard
- Rutherford, 15% Banca Dorada Vineyard

**Aging:** 24 months in 100% new French oak from coopers Taransaud, Dargaud Jaegle, Nadalie, Demptos, Marcel Cadet and Sylvain prior to bottling in January 2015.

**Winemaking Notes:** Vineyards were carefully monitored throughout the growing season for optimum, even ripening, paying close attention to Insignia designated blocks. Grapes were held separate during picking, sorting and fermentation.

The 2012 Insignia has an inky dark hue and aromas of ripe blackberries, star anise, cigarbox, clove and sweet mocha notes. Richly opulent with velvety texture and supple tannins, this full-bodied offering envelops the palate in luscious, lingering black plum and violets along with layers of baking spices.

**Growing Season:** The 2012 growing season proved to be excellent from start to finish in Napa Valley. It was a warmer year than the prior three, beginning with cold, dry and sunny weather for the first few months. Bud break occurred during the first two weeks of April and both bloom and veraison took place earlier than 2010 and 2011. Phenomenal fruit set and perfect ripening weather in August, September and October resulted in superior fruit with exceptional quality.

**Review:** 96 Points, "The flagship wine of the estate in reds is their Insignia, which has been one of the great Bordeaux blends made in California since the debut vintage in 1974... it's a fabulous, classic Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Inky purple to the rim, with notes of lead pencil shavings, incense, camphor, blackberry and creme de cassis, the wine is full-bodied, offering a multi-layered, textural, skyscraper-like mouthfeel, terrific purity, density and richness. This is a beauty to drink now and over the next 30 years." -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Oct. 2015