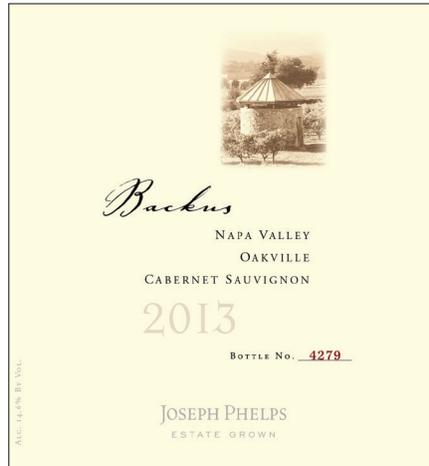


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2013

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 17-28, 2013.

**Blend:** 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot 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 January 2016.

**Winemaking Notes:** Each block remains separate during picking and fermentation. The complexity of the Backus Vineyard can be highlighted through the fruit and depth found in the North and Plateau blocks paired with the structure and concentration in the steep hillside fruit grown in the South block. Wine lots from each area of the vineyard remain separate prior to blending in order to fully develop their distinctiveness.

The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon from Backus Vineyard has a brooding inky hue with classic Oakville dark fruit aromatics wrapped in violet, cassis and graphite. Powerful and concentrated, this wine showcases a blackberry, plum, dusty earth and all spice profile with a silky smooth finish that lingers on the palate.

**Growing Season:** The 2013 growing season proved to be an excellent year in Napa Valley. It was slightly warmer than 2012, resulting in an overall earlier growing season. Lower than normal rainfall paired with moderate spring weather brought with it early bud break and bloom. Sunny skies throughout the summer months led to early veraison and harvest. Warm daytime temperatures followed by cool nights prior to harvest produced evenly ripened fruit with ideal hang time. There is great purity of fruit in the 2013 wines, good structure and overall an excellent winegrowers vintage.

**Review:** (94-96+) Points, "This wine is full-bodied, heady, intense and showing more of the ferocious extract and tannin one expects from this site, an inky purple color, and notes of blackberries, cassis, earth and graphite. It should turn out to be a phenomenal wine... with the potential to age well for 30 to 40+ years." -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Oct. 2015.