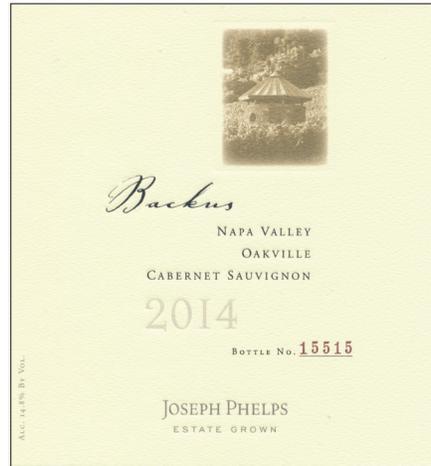


JOSEPH PHELPS



Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2014

Winemaking Data

Harvest Dates: September 10-18, 2014.

Blend: 96% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% 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.

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.

The 2014 vintage from Backus Vineyard is overflowing with aromatic dark fruit, violet, lead pencil shavings and roasted coffee. Extremely concentrated, with excellent tannin structure and luscious notes of plum, blackberry jam, black pepper spice and cardamom.

Growing Season: The 2014 Napa Valley growing season began with mild winter temperatures and dry conditions until February. Spring rains brought much needed moisture to the soil and filled our vineyard reservoirs. Bud break occurred three to four weeks earlier than 2013 with a long period between bud break and bloom. Frost was of no issue and the February and March rains provided for optimum vine growth. Consistent temperatures during the summer growing months with very few heat spikes created ideal ripening conditions for an early harvest. At the onset of harvest, the flavors, acidity and tannins were farther along in their development than the two previous years. Grapes achieved phenomenal fruit characteristics early and their maturation occurred at a steady, even pace. Consistency in the blocks and intense flavors at harvest were key characteristics to 2014.

Review: 95 Points, “...Plenty of blackberry fruit, licorice and floral scents backed up by some earthy new saddle leather notes. It is deep, round, juicy, savory and concentrated... Drink it over the next 25-30 years.” -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Oct. 2016.