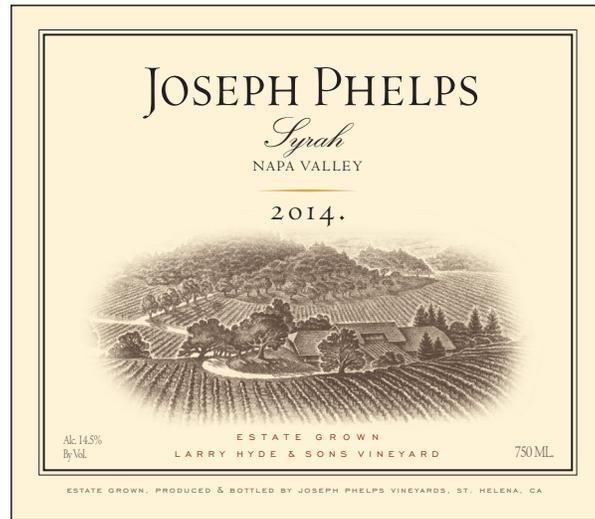


JOSEPH PHELPS



Joseph Phelps Syrah, Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard, Napa Valley 2014

Winemaking Data

Blend: 94% Syrah and 6% Viognier from the Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard in Carneros.

Winemaking Notes: Grapes were harvested at night to preserve temperature and freshness. The fruit was partially whole cluster fermented with regular punch downs until the desired texture was achieved followed by eighteen months of aging in 30% new French oak (a mix of puncheons and barrels) and 70% 2-4 year-old French oak (a mixture of puncheons and barrels). The barrel coopers included Ermitage and François Frères.

This latest vintage of Syrah from the Larry Hyde & Sons Vineyard opens with fragrant white flower, cardamom, Earl Grey tea, clove and dark fruit. Elegantly structured with balanced acidity and silky tannins, this wine reveals itself with layers of black plum, raspberry, baking spices and freshly cracked black pepper.

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 an average 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 further 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, "Possibly the best Syrah the Phelps winery has ever produced (and they have been making wine longer than many)... this sexy, endearing, dark purple wine, which has an incredibly intense bouquet of spring flowers, marmalade, honeysuckle, and blackcurrant and black raspberry fruit. This stunning wine would easily pass as a dead ringer for a Côte Rôtie in a blind tasting." -R.P., *Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate*, Oct. 2016