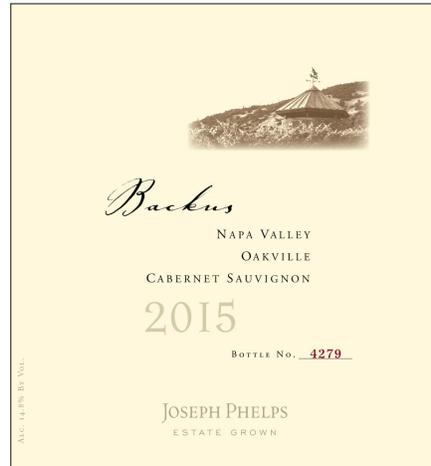


# JOSEPH PHELPS



## Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2015

### Winemaking Data

**Harvest Dates:** September 7-15, 2015.

**Blend:** 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec and 6% 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.

**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 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon from Backus Vineyard is brimming with violet, cinnamon stick, graphite, spice box and cedar notes followed by luscious blackberry jam and dusty cocoa powder. An intensely concentrated wine with seamless tannin and a long, lingering finish.

**Growing Season:** The 2015 Napa Valley growing season experienced dry, mild winter and spring temperatures similar to the prior three growing seasons. By mid-March all blocks at Backus were 50% through bud break, followed by a normal period of bloom. May temperatures were unseasonably cool, but summer months were consistently warm, with heat spikes in September and October, creating conditions for a low-yielding vintage of high quality fruit from one of the earliest and most condensed harvests on record. On September 7th the winery's first Napa Valley red grapes of the season were picked at the Backus North block and all Backus blocks were picked by September 15th. Small berries and loose clusters led to intensely concentrated, rich flavors and full-bodied wines from the 2015 vintage.

**Review:** (92-95) Points, "The 2015 reveals a nose of blueberry pie, blackberry tart and fruitcake with touches of garrigue, pencil lead, menthol and licorice. Full-bodied and laden with rich black fruit, it has a solid backbone of chewy tannins and seamless acid, finishing on a firm note." -LPB Robert Parker Wine Advocate, Oct. 2017