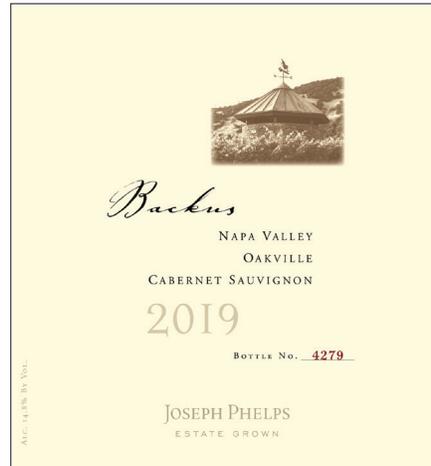


JOSEPH PHELPS



Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard, Oakville, Napa Valley 2019

Winemaking Data

Blend: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot and 3% 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.

Winemaking Notes: Each block at Backus Vineyard remains separate during harvest and fermentation. The complexity of this 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 2019 Backus is inky hued with a bouquet of dark fruit, pencil shavings, violet and peony notes. A classic East Oakville Cabernet Sauvignon offering with rich, dark cherry and black currant, layers of tannin structure, freshness, balance, and length.

Growing Season: In 2019, bud break occurred around the same time as 2018 but was delayed compared to our historical averages due to cold, saturated soils from the wet winter. May was cold with an unusual amount of rainfall which delayed bloom in some areas. Canopy management was key in 2019 because of vigorous canopies and moderate temperatures leading to less stress on the vines. July was cooler than average, but August and September warmed to push ripening ahead. Harvest weather patterns remained dry and fruit quality was excellent with well-developed flavors and structure.

Review: (97-100) Points, “The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Backus Vineyard reveals a primordial bouquet of pure blue fruits, graphite, spice, and crushed rocks. With some coaxing, it offers up a touch more red fruit as well as floral notes, and as with the 2018, the purity and freshness is stunning. Full-bodied on the palate, this flawlessly balanced, powerful Cabernet Sauvignon has a stacked mid-palate, loads of tannins, and one monster of a finish.” -*Jeb Dunnuck, Jan. 2021*