

JOSEPH PHELPS

V I N E Y A R D S

Cabernet Sauvignon

NAPA VALLEY



1997 Vintage

TASTING NOTES With complex aromas of black cherry, plum, chocolate, currant, and toasty oak, the wine displays layers of flavor and richness that disguise its power and longevity. Beautifully crafted and balanced, the 1997 Insignia reflects a new level of quality from both the vineyards and the growing regions.

GROWING SEASON After torrential rainfall in December and January, we experienced warm, dry weather through July, early budbreak, excellent fruit set, and veraison which was two to three weeks earlier than normal. Sugar concentrations were near desired levels by the end of July, and reports of a large crop surfaced as some wineries began to harvest in early August. However, the weather made a dramatic change on August 8 as a major cooling trend brought fog, mild temperatures and half an inch of rain on the 19th. Finally, with the return of warmer weather in the third week of September, the crop achieved near-perfect ripeness levels and harvest began in earnest.

WINEMAKING NOTES

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN VINEYARD SELECTIONS

83% Cabernet Sauvignon
14% Merlot
3% Petit Verdot

38% Las Rocas — Stags Leap AVA
20% Banca Dorada — Rutherford AVA
2% Home Ranch — St. Helena AVA
40% Trusted Grower fruit

BARREL AGING

The wine was aged for twenty-six months in 100% new French oak barrels before bottling.