

JOSEPH PHELPS

VINEYARDS

Cabernet Sauvignon

NAPA VALLEY

1994 Vintage



TASTING NOTES The warm, dry weather promoted good ripening in the vineyards, and yielded full-flavored fruit with extraordinary levels of pigment and mature tannins. Even at this early stage, the 1994 Cabernet displays the characteristics of a great vintage: exquisite balance, high-toned aromas, and spicy flavors of black fruit and cassis.

GROWING SEASON In 1994, after a long, cool growing season, 65% of our crop was still hanging on the vine by October 4, when an unexpected thunderstorm swept through the Napa Valley. In its wake, a spell of warm weather dried out the vineyards and caused a rapid rise in grape sugars, and although more rain was forecast, a window of opportunity for harvesting presented itself during the week of October 9-15, when much of the crop achieved optimal ripeness. During this time, we half our estimate for the entire harvest. Grape quality was excellent, and critics are citing the vintage as one of the best in the last twenty years.

WINEMAKING NOTES

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN VINEYARD SELECTIONS

95% Cabernet Sauvignon	73% Estate grown fruit
4% Cabernet Franc	27% Trusted grower fruit
1% Merlot	

BARREL AGING

The wine was aged for twenty-two months in French and American oak barrels before bottling.