

# JOSEPH PHELPS

VINEYARDS

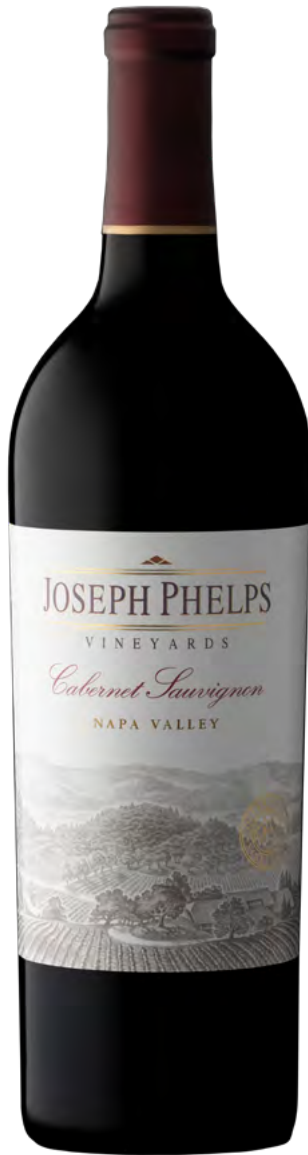
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## *Cabernet Sauvignon*

NAPA VALLEY

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### *1997 Vintage*



**TASTING NOTES** Our 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet meets or exceeds every quality standard a wish list would include. With its opaque color, concentrated, jammy aromas of black cherry, herbs and mocha, the wine reveals similar, satisfying flavors and a long, intricate finish.

**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 8th 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

87% Cabernet Sauvignon  
12% Merlot  
2% Cabernet Franc

31% Estate grown fruit  
69% Trusted grower fruit

#### BARREL AGING

The wine was aged for twenty months in 75% used French oak and 25% used American oak barrels before bottling.