

JOSEPH PHELPS

V I N E Y A R D S

Cabernet Sauvignon

NAPA VALLEY

1998 Vintage



TASTING NOTES The 1998 Cabernet Sauvignon is developing into a beautifully proportioned wine offering blackberry, roast coffee and chocolate aromas, and layered fruit flavors with supportive tannins that lead to a long, balanced finish.

GROWING SEASON In a vintage that was characterized by problematical weather conditions and low crop yields, there was no compromise in the quality of the 1998 Insignia. After careful crop thinning in the vineyard and barrel aging in the cellar, small, flavorful lots displaying only the highest aroma and flavor profiles were combined and repeatedly tasted to determine the final blend. This rigorous selection process reduced case production 20% from the previous year, but the result is a wine of remarkable quality, especially for a vintage that provided much less in raw materials.

WINEMAKING NOTES

VARIETAL BREAKDOWN VINEYARD SELECTIONS

80% Cabernet Sauvignon	27% Estate grown fruit
18% Merlot	73% Trusted grower fruit
2% Petit Verdot	

BARREL AGING

The wine was aged for twenty months in 40% new French oak and 60% used French oak barrels before bottling.