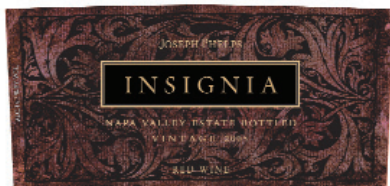


2005 INSIGNIA



RELEASE DATE: Fall 2008.

BLEND & GRAPE SOURCES: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petit Verdot and 1% Merlot from estate-owned vineyards in Rutherford (30%), South Napa (22%), St. Helena (17%), Oakville (17%) and Stag's Leap (14%).

WINEMAKER'S NOTES: Grapes were harvested between September 29 – November 1, 2005 at an average 25.0° Brix, fermented in stainless steel tanks, then

aged 24 months in 100% new French oak barrels from coopers Taransaud, Dargaud Jaegle, Nadalie, Demptos and Vicard.

The 2005 vintage was a year in which the wine was more austere early on, almost "Bordeaux"-like. After two years in barrel, the wine blossomed, showing amazing depth, texture and vibrant fruit qualities. Deeply colored, concentrated and layered, with floral, anise, black cherry and graphite aromas, this wine is classically structured with excellent acidity, well-balanced tannins and a mouth-staining, persistent finish.



2005 INSIGNIA PROPRIETARY RED WINE NAPA 95

Since 2004, 100% of the Bordeaux varietals used in the Insignia proprietary blend have been from estate vineyards. The beautiful, dense ruby/purple-tinged 2005 Insignia . . . possesses sweet aromas of black cherries, cassis, chocolate, camphor, and a subtle hint of roasted herbs. Medium to full-bodied and elegant, with a European style imposed on the rich, velvety, California fruit, this cuvée will benefit from several years of bottle age, and should easily keep for three decades.



2005 Insignia Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley 93 (+?)

Highly complex nose melds currant, black licorice, lead pencil, mocha, bitter chocolate and fresh herbs. Deep and sweet in the middle, with juicy acidity giving shape to the concentrated, silky flavors of cassis and dark chocolate. Finishes with broad, lush tannins and excellent length.




92 Joseph Phelps Insignia Napa Valley 2005

Smooth, supple and complex, offering wonderful aromas and serving up a range of herb- and mineral-laced currant, black cherry, blackberry, sage and pebble notes. Best from 2011 through 2018.



Our **WINE OF THE YEAR AWARD** goes to Joseph Phelps Insignia 2005. Here is a Cabernet-based offering that finds depth and balance, supple beauty and firming structure in one delightful package that is sure to age for years and years.

2005 JOSEPH PHELPS VINEYARDS Insignia Proprietary Red Wine Napa Valley

 This year's version of Insignia is a stunning wine that vies for very top honors of the vintage. Its utterly enveloping aromas of perfectly ripe currants, creamy oak and dried violets are followed up in the mouth with wonderfully extracted, carefully proportioned Cabernet flavors that go on and on. The wine is lush yet solidly structured with a fine sense of balance and tannin right where it should be, and, as good as the wine will be in its youth, it will be better with age.



Proprietary Blend of the Year

Joseph Phelps 2005 Insignia Napa Valley
 . . . Forward, enticing nose of violets, anise and black currant-black cherry fruit with notes of mocha fudge and shy dried herbs. Smooth and luscious with well-balanced, supple tannins and a classic structure, it delivers amazing depth and concentrated, layered, extracted flavors of exquisitely ripe black fruits and dried, minced black cherry, subtle spice and well-integrated oak that persist a full minute or more in the finish. A masterpiece . . .