

JOSEPH PHELPS

V I N E Y A R D S

About

Joseph Phelps Vineyards is committed to crafting world class, estate-based wines from Napa Valley and the western Sonoma Coast. Founded in 1973 when Joe Phelps purchased a former cattle ranch near St. Helena in the Napa Valley, the winery now controls and farms just over 400 acres of vines on nine estate vineyards in Napa Valley. In 1999, Phelps added 100 acres of vineyard property near the town of Freestone on the Sonoma Coast, where Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are grown. Joseph Phelps is best known for its flagship Napa Valley blend of red Bordeaux varieties, Insignia, first produced in 1974. It is considered one of the world's finest Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blends.

Joe Phelps, Founder

Sensing the limitless potential of the Napa Valley to grow the world's finest wines, Joe Phelps decided in 1973 to found his own wine business, to be known as Joseph Phelps Vineyards. In so doing, Joe became a leader in a remarkable group of entrepreneurs who launched a new era of excellence in California wine.

After three decades of participating in the day-to-day winery operations, in November of 2005, Joe stepped down as Chairman and the Board of Directors. In his later years, Joe held the title Chairman Emeritus, although he often referred to himself as "Chief Observer". Joe's memory continues to provide inspiration to the management and employees of Joseph Phelps Vineyards.

Joseph Phelps Vineyards, Napa Valley & Sonoma Coast

In the late 1960's, Joe Phelps was running one of the largest construction companies in the U.S., Hensel Phelps Construction Company, when he won the bid to build a new winery in Napa Valley. Enamored with the valley's beauty and contemplating a career change, in 1973 Joe bought a 600-acre former cattle ranch just outside of St. Helena, and began planting vineyards and construction of a winery. The first harvest in 1973 yielded Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Johannisberg Riesling bottlings, all custom crushed at nearby wineries. The Joseph Phelps winery was completed in 1974 in time for harvest, crushing grapes for the first Insignia and the first Syrah bottlings. It was a period of unparalleled activity, creativity, ingenuity, entrepreneurship and risk-taking. It put Joe Phelps and his Joseph Phelps Vineyards on the map of top Napa Valley wine producers.

Joseph Phelps Vineyards' history with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay dates back to the earliest years of the winery. Joe's search for the ideal location to grow Pinot Noir and Chardonnay eventually led the family to the western Sonoma Coast where they purchased a 200-acre former dairy farm just outside the town of Freestone in 1999. Soon thereafter, 100 acres of vines were planted followed by construction of a state-of-the-art, gravity fed winery facility dedicated to the production of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

In January 2014, Joseph Phelps embarked on an extensive sixteen-month renovation of their original winery building, designed by renowned architect John Marsh Davis. Completed in May 2015, winery improvements include eight newly created private tasting areas, an enhanced outdoor terrace and expanded vineyard views, providing an unrivaled Napa Valley visitor experience.

Inspired by Joe's lifelong culinary passion, the winery launched an educational wine and food program in 2017 to highlight the seasonal offerings of the region with the exceptional wines of Joseph Phelps Vineyards. Select wine and food & wine experiences are offered by appointment in addition to all Joseph Phelps wine experiences.

In 2020, Joseph Phelps Vineyards released its first sparkling wine, Ovation. Originally released as a still Chardonnay bottling in the early 1990s, Joseph Phelps Ovation was a favorite of winery founder Joe Phelps. The name gave praise and applause to a distinct Chardonnay bottling in select vintages. Following Joe's passing in the spring of 2015, the winery decided to honor Joe's incredible legacy by creating its first sparkling wine. Joseph Phelps Ovation Sparkling Wine serves as an appropriate tribute to a life worthy of applause.

In October 2021, the winery released two singular expression wines from the Joseph Phelps Freestone Estate, where site and clonal selection are the beginning of a new and distinctive winemaking story. Joseph Phelps Proem No.1 Pinot Noir and Proem No. 2 Pinot Noir represent a sense of place, the purest expression of our Freestone Estate on the western Sonoma Coast.

In fall 2022, Joseph Phelps Vineyards celebrates its 50th harvest season, and 50th anniversary year in 2023.

The Next Generation

Joe's legacy is honored by the Phelps family members who remain dedicated to Joseph Phelps Vineyards. Two of Joe's grandchildren, Elizabeth Phelps Neuman and Will Phelps, currently work for the winery, continuing their grandfather's long winemaking tradition.

Winemakers

Ashley Hepworth, Winemaker, Napa Valley

Ashley joined Joseph Phelps in 1999 as a harvest intern and stayed on to become a laboratory technician and enologist. In 2004 she was named Associate Winemaker and in October of 2008 was promoted to Winemaker. Ashley is responsible for all day-to-day winery activities in the production of Napa Valley wines for Joseph Phelps Vineyards.

Justin Ennis, Winemaker, Sonoma Coast

Justin Ennis joined the Joseph Phelps team in 2007 as Cellar Master in Freestone. Justin was promoted to Assistant Winemaker in 2011 and to Winemaker in February 2014. Justin is responsible for all day-to-day winery activities in the production of Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir and Chardonnay for Joseph Phelps Vineyards.

Current Wine Releases

- 2019 Insignia, Napa Valley – SRP \$330
- 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley - SRP: \$90
- 2019 Pinot Noir, Freestone Vineyards, Sonoma Coast - SRP: \$70
- 2019 Chardonnay, Pastorale Vineyard, Sonoma Coast - SRP: \$90
- 2017 Ovation Sparkling Wine, Sonoma Coast – SRP: \$125
- 2018 Joseph Phelps Proem No. 1 Pinot Noir, Freestone Estate, Sonoma Coast – SRP: \$225
- 2018 Joseph Phelps Proem No. 2 Pinot Noir, Freestone Estate, Sonoma Coast – SRP: \$225

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