PRIVATE CELLAR

Joseph Phelps Vineyards, California
Napa Valley & Sonoma Coast

One of the oldest estates in Napa to remain in family ownership, Joseph Phelps Vineyards have just celebrated their 40th harvest. The continuing rise in the profile of their star wine, Insignia, is well-documented but far from resting on their laurels, the Phelps family continues to innovate and modernise, without fanfare or bombast. Whether changing the blends of their wines from Rhône Rangers to Bordeaux styles, bringing their fruit production in house or advancing their considered move towards biodynamic production across their different sites, their measured, evolutionary approach is reflected in the wines both in Napa and Sonoma.

For those of us in Europe, California really is The Sunshine State, with perfect warmth, blue skies and rain only an occasional necessity. For the wine producers, however, it is rarely so idyllically simple and here we are offering wines from two very different vintages: Insignia from the long, cool 2011 growing season and the Phelps family's Napa Cabernet and Sonoma Coast wines from the more typically warm 2012 vintage.

The 2011 growing season started normally, but unusually cool conditions in late spring delayed flowering by as much as two or three weeks. In order to force the vines to work for their nutrition, vegetation between the rows which would normally have been removed was left in place, forcing the vines' roots deeper into the soil to seek water – a lazy vine doesn't make for good wine! Growers were obliged to wait until September in order to have their first real glimpse of summer, which gave a welcome boost to the ripening process, and harvest finally started in October, a whole month later than usual, finishing on 1st November. The result is a fresh, poised Insignia, with fully ripe tannins and the ability to evolve over a long period.

2012 came as a welcome relief, with temperatures around the norm, giving warm days and cool nights – vital, in particular, for the Sonoma Coast Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes to develop their complex aromas. A textbook summer ensured that the fruit could be left for as long as was needed before harvesting – something winemakers can rarely boast in any climate. Unusually, in Sonoma's coastal microclimate Pinot Noir generally ripens earlier than Chardonnay, whereas in Europe it is the other way round, and harvesting took place between 12th September and 15th October, when the last Chardonnay grapes came in. Sadly, 2012 is the last year when Fog Dog Chardonnay will make an appearance as the vines are now old enough to be included in the Freestone blend so please make the most of the last offer of this increasingly popular wine.

Many of our customers have kindly asked after the Phelps family and their staff following the earthquake which hit Napa on 24th August. Thankfully, everyone is reported to be safe and the Phelps' buildings (including their work in progress: a state-of-the-art visitor centre) and stocks were left undamaged, whilst many other cellars were less fortunate. We wish the Phelps family and their team all the very best as their homes return to normal and the damage in Napa is repaired.

Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW
September 2014

To order, please call us on 01353 721 999

Prices in this offer are per case, in bond London and Duty, VAT and delivery are payable when your wines are released for delivery to your home address. The wines will be shipped for delivery in January 2015.

Joseph Phelps Vineyards, California

					£ per case in bond
Fog Dog Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast	2012		6 per case	13.5%	£95

Bright gold with a nose of lemony white fruits, grilled and fresh, very neo-Burgundian in style, leading to a broad palate of buttery white fruit, with notes of citrus and marzipan and on to a tight, rich finish. Aged for 10 months in 25% new and 75% two and three year old French oak barrels, Fog Dog is certainly going out with a bang. Drink from 2015 to 2018

Fog Dog Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast	2012		6 per case	13.5%	£95

Deep red black, limpid, with a gorgeously alluring nose of mouth-watering, strawberry infused Pinot fruit, succulent and fresh, leading to a palate of juicy red fruits, jammy and ripe, with supple tannins and a light herbal note – very classic in style with just a nod towards the new world. Despite spending nine months in a mix of 25% new and 75% second fill barrels, the wood is completely masked by fruit. Superb. Drink from 2015 to 2019

Joseph Phelps Freestone Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast	2012		6 per case	14%	£165

Pale gold with a tightly packed nose of green stone fruits, surprisingly overt with hints of caramel and hazelnuts, leading to a really classic, taut palate of fresh white fruits, toasty and grilled with hints of new wood and again a hazelnut note, creamy and fresh, mineral too, going to a long finish. Aged in a combination of 35% new and 65% second and third fill barrels and puncheons (around 320 litres), this has delicious poise. Drink from 2015 to 2020

Joseph Phelps Freestone Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast	2012		6 per case	13.5%	£165

Deep red black with a wonderfully restrained, intense nose of sweet, tarry black fruits, very Pinot but more brooding than the Fog Dog, with a note of cardamom and spice. Gorgeously open on the palate compared to the nose, with sweet, tarry, spiced black fruits, jammy and fresh, with fine, supple tannins behind and lovely fresh acidity to balance. Again, despite 35% new wood it is not visible at all on either the palate or nose. Beautifully poised. Drink from 2015 to 2021

Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley	2012	bottles	6 per case	14.5%	£210
		magnums	3 per case		£220

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

Dense purple black right to the rim, opaque, with a nose of juicy black and red fruits, brambly with hints of mulberries and blackberries overlaid with alluring coconut and cedar notes. Deliciously rich on the palate with expressive black fruits, tarry and toasty with firm, ripe tannins behind, layered, spiced, elegant and almost tactile. Despite its extreme youth, it is incredibly tempting to drink already. Drink from 2016 to 2022+

Joseph Phelps Insignia, Napa Valley	2011	bottles	6 per case	14%	£595
		magnums	3 per case		£610

82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot, 4% Malbec, 2% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Dense red black right to the rim, opaque, with a richly spiced, perfumed nose of tarry black-skinned fruits, very classic and deeply attractive, going to a densely fruited palate – mulberry in particular – intense, spiced and opulent with more refined, ripe tannins behind, tarry and restrained with some distant grilled coffee notes on the finish – the only sign of the 100% new French oak used here. Wow! Drink from 2018 to 2027+

Joseph Phelps Eisrébe	2013	half bottles	12 per case	8%	£295

Made from 100% Scheurebe, a Riesling cross, Eisrébe is a one-off; despite occasional flurries of snow, it is rarely cold enough to freeze grapes on the vine here – this would require sustained temperatures below -5°C. Instead, Phelps freeze the fruit post-harvest separating the water from the flavoured juice, which is then so concentrated and rich in sugar that yeasts struggle to ferment beyond around 8%. The result is a deliciously fresh, aromatic dessert wine, floral and citrusy with fine acidity to balance the impressive 240g/l residual sugar – around the same amount as would be found in a traditional Eiswein or Trockenbeerenauslese. Extraordinary and extraordinarily delicious. Drink from 2015 to 2025

To order, please call us on 01353 721 999

Prices in this offer are per case, in bond and Duty, VAT and delivery are payable when your wines are released for delivery to your home address. The wines will be shipped for delivery in January 2015.

PRIVATE CELLAR

Order Form

Joseph Phelps Vineyards, California

September 2014

Wine	Bottles per case	£ per case under bond	No. of cases required	£ Total
Fog Dog Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast 2012	6 x 75cl	£95		
Fog Dog Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast 2012	6 x 75cl	£95		
Joseph Phelps Freestone Chardonnay, Sonoma Coast 2012	6 x 75cl	£165		
Joseph Phelps Freestone Pinot Noir, Sonoma Coast 2012	6 x 75cl	£165		
Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2012 bottles	6 x 75cl	£210		
Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley 2012 magnums	3 x 150cl	£220		
Joseph Phelps Insignia, Napa Valley 2011 bottles	6 x 75cl	£595		
Joseph Phelps Insignia, Napa Valley 2011 magnums	3 x 150cl	£610		
Joseph Phelps Eisrébe 2013 half bottles	12 x 37.5cl	£295		
Total:				

Payment Details

I enclose a cheque for the amount of £_____ made payable to Private Cellar Ltd.

Please charge my credit/debit card number:_____

(Visa, MasterCard, Visa Debit, Maestro)

Start Date:_____ Expiry Date:_____ Security No:_____

Issue No:_____ Signature:_____

Delivery and Account Address Details

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____ Post Code:_____

Daytime Telephone Number:_____

This offer closes on Friday 31st October 2014 and the wines will be shipped for delivery in January 2015.

Please indicate what you would like us to do with your wines when they arrive:

☐ Please store my wines under bond with Private Cellar Reserves LLP

☐ Please deliver my wines to my account address*

* Duty, VAT and delivery are payable when your wines are released for delivery to your home address. Duty is currently £12.30 per case of 6 bottles before VAT

Private Cellar Ltd, The Estate Office, Kentford Lodge, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QS
T: 01353 721 999 | E: orders@privatecellar.co.uk

E&OE