



# Joseph Phelps

The 2021 Insignia is a masterful blend of Napa Valley power and finesse, offering dark fruit purity, lifted florals, and fine structure in a vibrant, age-worthy profile.

## Insignia 2021

California, USA

### Region and Vineyards

The 2021 vintage of Insignia draws its strength and complexity from **six estate-owned vineyards** located across **Napa Valley's most respected sub-AVAs**. A significant portion (28%) comes from the **Yountville Vineyard** in the **Oak Knoll District**, contributing aromatic lift and ripe red-toned fruit. The **Banca Dorada Vineyard** in **Rutherford** (27%) adds structural definition and classic earthy notes, anchored by the appellation's signature dusty tannins.

From the **Stags Leap District**, **Las Rocas (19%)** and **Barboza (6%)** impart depth, mineral tension, and savory spice. The **Home Ranch** site in **St. Helena (11%)** provides richness and mid-palate weight, while the cooler **Suscol Vineyard (9%)** infuses energy and brightness. The diversity of these sites enables the creation of a **harmonious and multidimensional wine**, emblematic of the vintage's exceptional fruit quality and balance.

### Winemaking

The 2021 Insignia is composed of **93% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **3% Petit Verdot**, **2% Cabernet Franc**, and **2% Malbec**. The growing season was cooler than 2020, with a later bud break and an earlier bloom. Summer was marked by persistent winds and mild temperatures, resulting in a long hang time that allowed grapes to develop **exceptional phenolic maturity**.

Fruit from each vineyard was vinified separately to preserve the nuances of terroir. The wine underwent **24 months of aging in 100% new French oak barrels**, enhancing its texture, spice complexity, and ageability. The resulting cuvée is precise and expressive, marked by plush tannins, vivid acidity, and a sleek, sculpted profile.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with vibrant violet undertones and crystalline clarity.
- **Aroma:** Bright aromatics of black cherry, wild blackberry, and hibiscus, accented by fresh earth, baking spices, and Tahitian vanilla.
- **Palate:** Lush and layered, with dark fruit richness supported by redwood bark, clove, and mineral tension. Silky tannins and bright acidity deliver lift, precision, and an elegant, enduring finish.

JOSEPH PHELPS  
VINEYARDS



Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 93% Cabernet  
Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2%  
Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec



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## Insignia 2021

### Did you know?

The 2021 growing season was **cooler and more temperate than recent years**, with extended hang time and naturally low yields producing small, highly concentrated berries. Many on the estate liken the vintage's structure and density to the famed 2015 vintage—yet with **even greater finesse and clarity**.

### Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled duck breast with fig compote:** Enhances the wine's black fruit core and floral lift.
- **Porcini mushroom lasagna with béchamel:** A rich, savory match that echoes the wine's earthy and creamy dimensions.
- **Dry-aged ribeye with rosemary butter:** A bold protein partner that aligns with the wine's tannic grip and spice-laden depth.
- **Venison loin with red wine reduction:** Elevates the wine's vibrancy and mineral undertones.



#### James Suckling (JS) : 98 Points (2021)

*A standout vintage for one of California's most collectible cabernet sauvignons. The color is black throughout, but with a dark garnet rim. Gorgeous aromatics of spearmint, pencil shavings, toasted oak and dark plums, before a silky, fresh but firm texture takes over the palate and dusky blackcurrant, tobacco-leaf, rose-petal and cedar notes emerge and linger. Full-bodied and saturated with rounded, well-integrated tannins that emerge on the lingering finish and keep melting in the glass. It will drink best from 2028.*



#### Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 98 Points (2021)

*Not yet bottled, the 2021 Insignia has a pure, concentrated, medium to full-bodied style that shows the vintage beautifully. Cassis, blue fruits, graphite, lead pencil shavings, and floral notes all define the bouquet, and it has beautiful tannins, a great mid-palate, and outstanding length.*



#### Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2021)

*The 2021 Insignia is still in barrel, but it is immensely promising. Bright acids and beams of tannin confer freshness. This is a mid-weight vintage of Insignia that is built more on finesse than power. Crème de cassis, lavender, spice and new leather linger. (AG)*

