

WINE NEWS

December/January 2007–08



Proprietary Blends

Proprietary Blend of the Year

Joseph Phelps, 2004 Insignia, Napa Valley — \$200: Insignia's current vintage continues its impressive, top-place record in this report; this first-growth quality, Bordeaux-style blend is composed of estate-grown cabernet sauvignon (72%), merlot (14%), petit verdot (12%) and malbec (2%) from Phelps's vineyards in St. Helena, Stags Leap District, Yountville, Rutherford and Oakville. Forward, intense nose of liqueur-rich blackberry-black cherry fruit, dried lavender, mocha and vanilla bean with a hint of graphite. Concentrated and mouth-filling with firm, velvety tannins and balancing acidity, the wine exhibits a deep core of luscious blackberry-blueberry fruit enhanced by seductive, fruitcake-like spicy notes and subtle vanillin oak. Finishes long and graceful. (9,000 cases)