

2012 BEAUTIFUL GENERATION CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, Vineyard Architect David Abreu, and Winemaker Chris Tynan have come together to form an unrivaled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Vintage

The 2012 vintage was a glorious year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for even fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days, cool nights, and minimal heat spikes, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. Resulting wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved by virtue of an early autumn of consistently warm days.

Vineyards

Our estate vineyard blocks are named after some of Cliff's favorite rock songs. The name for this blend is derived from the "Beautiful Day" and "My Generation" blocks of our Twin Peaks Vineyard, which surrounds the winery. These vineyards feature weathered volcanic soil, eroded by the alluvial influence of the Napa River. This gravelly loam creates concentrated, plush Cabernet Sauvignon with classic minerality.

Winemaking

In the cool darkness of night, grapes were hand-picked into twenty-five pound bins to minimize crushing. By early morning, the grapes were subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process which includes our cutting edge optical sorter, and a slow, individual berry hand sort. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to small tanks and by our unique crane system which kept the berries intact. Cold soaks lasted from five to eight days, and fermentations were managed through a combination of pump overs and *délestage*. Extended maceration of up to six weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. This wine underwent eighteen months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 80% of which were new.

Tasting Notes

"Beautiful Generation" shows what Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon has to offer. Dark and inviting, with enticing, explosive aromas of wild cherry, red currants, and cassis, along with alluring hints of sandalwood and *pain grillé*, this Cabernet is a sensual experience from start to finish. Silky, yet plush, tannins with crushed rock mineral notes, classic of the Stags Leap District, make this wine irresistible now, but patience will be rewarded with cellar aging over the next twenty years.

Analysis

Composition:	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	15.3%
Production:	1,197 cases
Bottling Date:	July 2014
Release Date:	May 2015

These go to eleven.