

2007 Cliff Lede High Fidelity, Napa Valley

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, viticulturalist David Abreu, Winemaker Michelle Edwards, and consultant Michel Rolland have come together to form an unrivalled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Vintage

The lack of winter rainfall resulted in low soil moisture at the start of the vintage. With a gradual transition into spring and the earliest irrigation on record, 2007 opened with cool weather and early growth. A mild April turned to a hot May and June, with grapevines blazing through bloom and the first phase of development. Late summer heat punctuated the start of harvest. Finally, a good rain in late October brought harvest to a close. The 2007 vintage is most noted for its dry start and small berry size with pronounced flavors of unusual depth and complexity.

Vineyards

Fruit was sourced from our Twin Peaks Ranch on the Yountville Cross Road and a few of our valued growers within the Napa Valley. Yields are maintained at sparse levels, ranging from 2 to 3.5 tons per acre. The wine is composed of small batches from a variety of blocks, representing the diverse range of carefully selected rootstocks and clones.

Winemaking Grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting and refinement process. The whole berries were gently delivered to tank by our crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted approximately five days, and fermentations were managed via a combination of *delestage*, pumpovers, and punchdowns. Extended maceration ranging from three to four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, allowing us to perfect mouth feel and wine complexity. The wine was aged in 75% new French oak and 25% neutral oak for eighteen months.

Winemaker Notes

Inspired by the opulent right bank blends of Bordeaux, this wine is built from fine-grained Merlots and the elegant refines of Cabernet. Dense aromas of persimmon, pomegranate, clove, nutmeg, lotus flower and allspice evolve in multiple layers. A mouth divided between roses and oolong tea, builds generously into a rich seas of Sabra, dusty gravel, and sweet black tea. Plush and generous, this wine truly defines elegance.

Analysis

Composition: 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec, and
5% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 15.1%
Bottled: July 2009
Release: February 2010
Production: 661 cases