

2007 IMAGINE RHAPSODY CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, viticulturalist David Abreu, Associate Winemaker Kale Anderson, and Winemaking Consultant Philippe Melka 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

The majority of this fruit was sourced from two distinctive blocks named Imagine and Bohemian Rhapsody, located on our estate. The soils of these two blocks demonstrate stark contrasts, which are reflected in the wine's complex profile.

Winemaking

Grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered hand-sorting system. The berries were gently delivered to tank by our distinctive crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted approximately four to five days and fermentations were managed via a combination of *delestage*, punchdowns and pumpovers. Extended maceration from three to five weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, and allowed us to perfect mouth feel and wine complexity. The wine underwent eighteen months of *elevage* in 65% new French oak and 35% neutral French oak.

Winemaker Notes

A wide range of aromas layer the bouquet, from charcuterie to sarsaparilla to blackberry pie. Allspice and violets carry the front palette and expand into ripe plum, milk chocolate, and minty round tannins through the finish. Nicely shaped and weighty on the palette, the concentration can be attributed to our hillside terroir and meticulous hand-work in the vineyard. Well-proportioned mouthfeel and structure will reward patience. For the patient and impatient alike, decanting is recommended.

Analysis

Composition:	97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	15.0 %
Tons/Acre:	1.5 – 2.3
Bottled:	June 2009
Release:	May 2010
Production:	841 cases
Suggested Retail:	\$90