

2009 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

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

Vintage

The growing season started under drought conditions. Springtime rains recharged the soil, and the vines responded with moderate vigor. Set was below normal due to some warm and dry winds. Berry development progressed rapidly under warm and clear summer days, with fog blankets in the morning hours. Ripening progressed slowly and evenly. Then, as summer gave way to fall, moderate temperatures led to an early harvest. Low yields balanced the vines naturally, and contributed to intense wines. Typical of an El Nino winter, early rains soaked the Napa Valley with five inches or more precipitation in mid-October. Fortunately, all of our fruit was ripe and was harvested prior to the unseasonable rains.

Vineyards

Our Fruit is sourced from an exceptional vineyard with volcanic ash soils in the Diamond Mountain Appellation. The sun-drenched mountaintop vineyard has northeastern exposure and late afternoon breezes that ripen the fruit slowly and evenly. Cool nights promote balanced structure and acidity in the finished wines.

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 five to eight 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. The wine underwent eighteen months of *elevage* in 82% new French Oak. Bottled Unfined and Unfiltered.

Winemaker Notes

Black tar and fresh blackberries make way to plush, ripe black fruit on the nose. Sage, coffee, and tanned leather open into classic crème de cassis and lavender aromas. Opulent blackberry pie and cassis dominate the rich mid palate. Layers of sweet, silky tannins develop through the finish, balanced by a touch of ashy minerality.

Analysis

Composition:	89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1% Merlot
Alcohol:	14.8%
Bottling Date:	July 2011
Release Date:	December 2012
Production:	511 Cases
Picking Dates:	October 5 th – October 11 th , 2009