

2009 CINNAMON RHAPSODY 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 unrivalled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Vintage

2009, like the previous year, 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

The majority of this fruit was sourced from two distinctive blocks named “Cinnamon Girl” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” located on our estate. The soils and exposure 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 five to eight days and native 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 twenty-one months of *elevage* in 100% new French Oak.

Winemaker Notes

The black color and aromas of tobacco and leather seem appropriate for a wine inspired by rock. Like a good classic rock n’ roll song, this wine is loud and unabashed. The deep concentration of our ripest release of Rockblock thus far can be attributed to our terroir and meticulous handwork in the vineyard. Silky tannins crescendo through as it leads to a long finale. Structure will be rewarded with patient cellaring. For the patient and impatient alike, decanting is recommended.

Analysis

Composition:	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot, 1% Malbec
Alcohol:	14.7%
Bottling Date:	July 2011
Release Date:	May 2012
Production:	1,170 Cases
Retail:	\$95