

2010 CLIFF LEDE CLARET, NAPA VALLEY

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

Vintage

The 2010 vintage began with a wet winter that kept the soil moist into spring. The vines responded with moderate vigor and healthy canopies. The cool temperatures in the spring continued through harvest resulting in one of Napa Valley's coolest vintages on record. The below average temperatures slowed berry development and ripening by two to three weeks in most varieties resulting in full ripeness at lower sugar levels. Early season thinning lowered yields and allowed the grapes to achieve optimal ripeness and careful canopy management protected the fruit from a couple of heat waves in late August and September. Most of the crop was harvested in mid-October during an intense two week period just ahead of the late October heat and early November rains.

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 a diverse range of carefully selected rootstocks and clones.

Winemaking

The grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered hand sorting 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 *délestage*, pumpovers, and punchdowns. Extended maceration ranging from three to four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, allowing us to build mouth feel and wine complexity. The wine was aged in French oak for eighteen months.

Winemaker Notes

Dark purple in color, aromas of blackberry, cassis, and graphite escape from the glass. A fresh beam of minerality supports the rich mid-palate while a frame-work of silky tannins, chocolate, and huckleberry linger in the finish.

Analysis

Composition:	45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 18% Malbec, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	14.5%
Bottled:	July 2012
Release:	December 2012
Production:	1852 Cases