

## 2012 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 Chris Tynan have come together to form an unrivaled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

### Vintage

The 2012 vintage was a glorious year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for even fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days, cool nights, and minimal heat spikes, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated ripe fruit, complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Skillful crop thinning and an early autumn of consistently warm days helped the vineyards achieve optimal ripeness.

### Vineyards

Fruit was sourced from our Twin Peaks Vineyard in the Stags Leap District and a few of our valued growers within Napa Valley. Yields are maintained at sparse levels, with a focus on canopy management and vine balance. The wine is composed of small batches from a variety of blocks, representing a diverse range of carefully selected rootstocks and clones, to assemble a blend with depth and complexity.

### 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 gravity-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

Dazzling like a dark ruby, this pretty wine entices with red cherry, wild strawberry, and Chambord aromas. These lovely fruit flavors are complemented by hints of vanilla and allspice. Elegant and silky, the 2012 Claret delights the senses with bright fruit, lively acidity, interesting spice and will complement any occasion.

### Analysis

Composition:	53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Malbec, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	15.7%
Bottled:	July 2014
Release:	December 2014
Production:	1044 Cases