

2013 STARDUST HEAVEN CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

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

Vintage

The 2013 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 no heat spikes, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm days. The wines are showing exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure.

Vineyards

Our estate vineyard blocks are named after some of Cliff's favorite rock songs. The name for this blend is derived from the "Ziggy Stardust" and "Stairway to Heaven" blocks of our Poetry Vineyard. These steep terraced vineyard blocks feature shallow volcanic soil planted with high vine density and farmed to very low yields.

Winemaking

In the cool darkness of night, grapes were hand-picked into twenty-five pound bins to minimize crushing. By early morning, the grapes were subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process which includes our cutting edge optical sorter, and a slow, individual berry hand sort. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to small tanks and by our unique crane system which kept the berries intact. Cold soaks lasted from five to eight days, and fermentations were managed through a combination of pump overs and *délestage*. Extended maceration of up to six weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. This wine underwent eighteen months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 80% of which were new.

Tasting Notes

"Stardust Heaven" exhibits the classic Stags Leap District Cabernet Sauvignon traits that have made this region famous. Beautiful and expressive, the bouquet emanates aromas of crushed blackberry, cassis, and Luxardo cherry. Layers of warm slate and cigar tobacco, along with black licorice, dark chocolate, and *pain grillé* fill out the upper register of scents. Suede-like tannins caress the palate for a lingering velvety finish. For those who can resist its charms today, it will keep rocking through the next twenty-plus years with patience and careful cellaring.

Analysis

Composition:	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	14.9%
Production:	1,321 cases
Bottling Date:	July 2015
Release Date:	May 2016

These go to eleven.