

2013 CLIFF LEDE SONGBOOK CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

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.

Inspired by the friendship between Cliff Lede and David Abreu, Songbook is our interpretation of two celebrated vineyards.

Vintage

An early growing season led the way to an excellent vintage in 2013. A warm, dry spring brought early bud break and uniform vine growth. Late June's heat wave led to an early and even veraison, followed by steady maturation during the temperate late summer and early fall. Ideal weather, with no detrimental heat spikes or rain events, allowed us to harvest individual vineyard blocks at optimal ripeness with no constraints. Yields were plentiful, due to the favorable weather during bloom, but berries remained small, resulting in wines of exceptional depth and concentration. Slow ripening retained acidity, creating wines that are balanced, profound, and beautiful.

Vineyards

Songbook is sourced from two of acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu's personally-farmed properties: Thorevilos Vineyard, situated between the St. Helena and Howell Mountain AVAs, and Madrona Ranch, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range. These vineyards produce grapes of exceptional character resulting from proprietary clones, extremely low yields, and meticulous farming. The result is a winemaker's dream.

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 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 twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 95% of which were new.

Tasting Notes

Seamless and effusive, 2013 Songbook's heady aromas begin with spring flowers, wild mint, crème de cassis, and melted dark chocolate. As the wine unfolds, the perfume evolves with subtle notes of cinnamon, cardamom, coffee, and earthy pine forest floor. The seductive flavors lay out across the palate with crushed blackberry, wild boysenberry, and blood orange leading the way. A long crescendo of black licorice envelops the finish with accent notes of graphite and talc.

Analysis

Composition: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.9%
Bottled: July 2015
Release: March 2017
Production: 334 cases