

CLIFF LEDE
VINEYARDS
NAPA VALLEY

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INN

2013 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CALISTOGA

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. June's warm end 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

Located at the base of Diamond Mountain in the western portion of the Calistoga appellation, our Calistoga estate vineyard has twenty acres of vineyard planted mostly to Cabernet Sauvignon. The gravelly loam soils are volcanic in origin with alluvial influence made evident by copious amounts of water-rolled gravel and large cobbles. While Calistoga can experience quite hot daytime temperatures, our estate is protected from the afternoon sun by Diamond Mountain to our west. Cool breezes from the Pacific are drawn in by the narrow gap between Napa and Sonoma Counties, further mediating the hot days. The result is powerful, rich Cabernet with balanced acidity.

Winemaking

Hand harvested in the cool early morning hours, the fruit was immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process, including our cutting edge optical sorter, with a goal of eliminating less-than-perfect berries. The selected fruit was gently delivered to tank via gravity by our crane system, retaining perfect, whole berries. Cold soaks lasted approximately five days, and fermentations were managed by a combination of *délestage* and pump overs. Extended maceration, ranging from three to four weeks, fine-tuned tannin profiles, allowing us to build structure and wine complexity. The wine was aged in French oak barrels, 90% of which were new, for twenty-one months.

Winemaker Notes

The inaugural vintage from this site sets the bar high for future vintages. Sourced from vines planted in an old riverbed on the westernmost side of the property, the 2013 Calistoga Cabernet Sauvignon is front loaded with crème de cassis, shaved black truffle, cardamom, and brambly wild raspberries. Essence of violet, mint chocolate, and lavender intertwine and evolve with flavors of red currants, Luxardo cherries, and wintergreen. There is something inherently classic in this site that reminds me of Napa's great wines of the 40s, 50s, and 60s. —Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

Analysis

Composition:	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 5% Malbec
Alcohol:	14.9%
Bottling Date:	July 2015
Release Date:	October 2016
Production:	474 Cases