

2012 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, viticulturist David Abreu, and Winemaker Chris Tynan have come together to form an unrivalled 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

Our Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon is from an exceptional, low-yielding vineyard with volcanic ash soils in the Diamond Mountain appellation, nestled into the Mayacamas Range on the northwest side of Napa Valley. The sun-drenched mountain vineyard has northeastern exposure and late afternoon breezes that ripen the fruit slowly and evenly. Planted and farmed by David Abreu Vineyard Management, this extraordinary site of old vines planted on a steep incline with a historic Napa field selection produces an age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon with dark fruit, intense structure, minerality and perfume.

Winemaking

Grapes were hand-picked in the darkness of the early morning hours into small twenty-five pound harvest bins, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered hand-sorting system. The berries were gently gravity-delivered to tank using our distinctive crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted five days and fermentations were managed via a combination of *délestage*, punch downs and pump overs. Extended maceration for four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles. The wine underwent twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak, 80% new. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Winemaker Notes

A deep garnet-black in color, this distinctly pedigreed Cabernet offers a lovely array of brooding dark fruit flavors and scents. Fresh aromas of black currant, crushed blackberries, and warm plum soar with savory layers of Chinese hoisin, black olive tapenade, and dried tobacco. The long opulent palate tastes of liquefied minerals and possesses a voluptuous raspberry liqueur-like texture. With proper time in the decanter, distinctly complex Diamond Mountain aromas of old pine forest and cedar emerge and intertwine seamlessly with the luxurious flavors.

Analysis

Composition:	96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Merlot
Alcohol:	14.8%
Bottling Date:	July 2014
Release Date:	December 2015
Production:	511 Cases