

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2019 CLIFF LEDE “HIGH FIDELITY” RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY

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

Vintage

The 2019 vintage was a magnificent year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by a cool wet spring that included three inches of rain in May. Luckily, the rain didn't affect set and the weather turned warm and sunny for the duration of spring. Welcome warm nights in June, July, and August caught maturation back on schedule. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wine shows exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm, but not hot, days. The pristine ripening conditions allowed for very intense fruit flavor concentrations.

Vineyards

The Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon in this blend are from our Twin Peaks estate vineyard, while the Cabernet Franc hails from acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu's Madrona Ranch. The vineyards are farmed with meticulous attention to detail, maintaining yields at sparse levels—ranging from two to three tons per acre. The wine is composed of just a few of our best lots from these most cherished sites.

Winemaking

Grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours. The freshly-harvested fruit immediately underwent rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process, which included our cutting-edge optical sorter. Whole berries were gently delivered by gravity to tank using our crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted approximately seven days, and fermentations were managed via a combination of *délestage*, pumpovers, and punchdowns. Extended maceration ranging from four to five weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, allowing us to perfect mouth feel and wine complexity. The wine was aged in French oak barrels, 44% of which were new, for twenty-two months.

Winemaker Notes

A wine of contemplation and singularity, the 2019 High Fidelity flaunts a dazzling display of Luxardo cherries, summer fig, roasted beets, cigar box, and crushed blueberry aromas. These aromas are echoed on the palate, with integrated layers of dried leaves, praline, coastal sage, cardamon, braised beef juices, nutmeg, and clove notes. Intriguing and seamless, this wine unfolds with milk chocolatey tannins and a lovely balanced acidity. - Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 53% Cabernet Franc, 43% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.5%
Production: 832 cases
Bottling Date: July 2021
Release Date: February 2023