

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2019 CLIFF LEDE “POETRY” CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Sourced from the steep hillside Poetry Vineyard, this wine represents the highest expression of our estate.

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. Summer conditions were moderate and 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.

Vineyard

The Poetry Vineyard, carved into a steep west-facing hillside, reaches from the highest elevations of the Stags Leap District appellation to the valley floor. This vineyard draws its uniqueness from shallow, volcanic soils atop fractured shale. Due to the stressful nature of the site, planted with high vine density and farmed to very low yields, the vines develop slowly and produce small flavorful berries. The vineyard is planted to legendary, proprietary heritage selections of Cabernet Sauvignon.

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. Following twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 80% of which were new, the blend was selected from our best lots of the Poetry Vineyard.

Winemaker Notes

The result of meticulous attention to detail throughout the winemaking process, the fresh and lively 2019 Poetry's effortless character belies the precision and masterly artistry required to assemble our multi-layered *grand vin*. This captivating elixir greets the taster with a bouquet of fresh cut flowers, crushed red currant, and summer Morello cherry aromas. Nestled amongst these scents are red and black licorice, clove, and bergamot. Next, there is a rush of melted dark chocolate, shortbread, blackberry, and plum flavors along the palate. Sea salt, aged beef, and loamy black truffle elements add layers of savoriness to the long and tantalizing finish.
-Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, and 3% Merlot
Bottling Date: July 2021
Release Date: September 2023
Production: 1,471 cases