

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2021 CLIFF LEDE “HIGH FIDELITY” RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY

Cliff Lede Vineyards is a family-owned and operated winery located in the famed Stags Leap District. For over 20 years, Cliff Lede Vineyards has prioritized crafting wines of extraordinary quality with authenticity and sustainability in mind.

#### Vintage

The 2021 growing season was beset by a very dry winter. The valley received only half of the average rainfall. Because of the winter drought, our experienced vineyard crew began irrigation before bud break in the rockiest soils and set about crafting canopies that would protect and ripen the fruit to perfection. Although dry, the mild weather during April’s budbreak helped establish healthy shoot and leaf growth throughout May into June. Mid-June saw some of the hottest days of the year, accompanied by cold nights which tempered their effects. Foggy mornings and warm sunny afternoons in August and September ushered in an early harvest of pristine and flavorful grapes. The wines are imbued with a bright fresh acidity provided by the ample, shading canopies, along with the ripeness and allure of a droughty growing season.

#### Vineyards

The Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon in this blend are from our estate Rhythm 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, 80% of which were new, for twenty-two months.

#### Winemaker Notes

The soft, opulent, and voluptuous 2021 Cliff Lede “High Fidelity” Red Wine is blessed with a seductively complex aroma filled with notes of black currants, menthol, smoked cardamon, tobacco leaf, and sandalwood. From beginning to end, this wine possesses a graceful, cashmere-like texture, which carries the black cherry and crushed blueberry flavors stylishly across the palate, leaving hints of forest floor, roasted chestnuts, and burning incense as it goes. Our most perfumed and complete High Fidelity to date.

-Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

#### Analysis

Composition: 65% Cabernet Franc, 27% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon  
Alcohol: 14.1%  
Production: 644 cases  
Bottling Date: July 2023  
Release Date: February 2024