

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2022 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

Warm temperatures in February and March jumpstarted an early 2022 growing season. Early budbreak often comes with the vulnerability to frost, but luckily our vines suffered no damage during the cool spring nights. Early irrigations were necessary to set up healthy canopies and the vines set an average crop after an uneventful bloom period. The uniform and even clusters needed little thinning, and attention was paid to sculpting the shoots and laterals to ensure adequate shading and airflow throughout the fruiting positions. Late August was hot, and September was forecasted to be even hotter, so we began picking in rapid succession before the heat to preserve the fresh acidities and delicate aromatics already present in the grapes.

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, 78% of which were new, for twenty-two months.

Winemaker Notes

Charming and inviting, the 2022 High Fidelity seduces the taster with a bouquet of mulberries, incense, autumn leaves, and exotic spices. Dried roses, cigar box, and licorice, echo on the palate with a core of crème de cassis and dried cherries plus touches of black tea and dusty earth. Medium to full-bodied, it fills the mouth with rich, plushly textured fruit and warms the mid-palate with an explosion of Chinese five-spice and floral perfume notes, leading to a soft finish, nuanced with mineral and cardamon notes. -Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 48% Cabernet Franc, 43% Merlot, and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 660 cases
Bottling Date: July 2024
Release Date: February 2025