

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY

2016 CLIFF LEDE “SONGBOOK” CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

Inspired by the friendship between Cliff Lede and David Abreu, Songbook is our interpretation of two celebrated vineyards farmed by David.

Vintage

The 2016 growing season represented a continuation of exceptional vintages in Napa Valley. Another drought year, 2016 began with a dry winter, followed by a warm, frost-free early spring with just enough rainfall to fill the soil profile, leading to an early budbreak with resources to develop healthy canopies. The vintage progressed at a leisurely pace due to moderate temperatures throughout most of the remaining growing season. Crop levels were slightly below average due to a dry late spring and a cool weather spell during flowering. The dry soils led to small berries, creating very concentrated fruit. With lovely summer weather, grapes were harvested at optimal ripeness and the resulting wines have generous fruit with intensity and vibrancy.

Vineyards

Songbook is sourced from two of acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu’s personally-farmed properties: Thorevilos Vineyard, situated between the St. Helena and Howell Mountain AVAs, and Madrona Ranch, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range. These vineyards produce grapes of exceptional character resulting from proprietary clones, extremely low yields, and meticulous farming. The result is a winemaker’s dream.

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. This wine underwent twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 72% new.

Winemaker Notes

Our 2016 Songbook is a beautiful dance of sweet and savory fragrances and flavors. The fruit leads this vintage with ambrosial notes of fig paste, crushed wild raspberries, and black currants. Following, but no less important, are savory nori wrapper, fennel pollen, black truffle, and dried shiitakes. On the finish, cocoa powder, new tobacco, and sage leaf aromatics waft in the retro nasal cavities while layers of unctuous black licorice, wild raspberries, and white chocolate notes linger on the long finish.

-Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

Analysis

Composition: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Bottled: July 2018
Release: March 2020
Production: 384 cases