

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2021 CLIFF LEDE “SONGBOOK”, CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 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 2021 Songbook is sourced from two acclaimed Napa Valley vineyards – David Abreu's Madrona Ranch Vineyard, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range, and our Poetry Estate Vineyard. These vineyards produce grapes of exceptional character resulting from proprietary clones, extremely low yields, and meticulous farming.

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. Whole berries were gently delivered by gravity to tank 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, 80% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

Beneath the 2021 Songbook's shy, demure initial impression, simmers a dashing and seductive elixir. A little time in the glass reveals comely warm slate, wild blackberry preserves, iron, violets, and cedar aromas. A liquid minerality is intertwined throughout the black licorice, cocoa powder, chocolate cake, and cinnamon flavors. This sumptuous wine finishes lively and precise, shining with fresh acidity and supportive tannin that will carry this wine on its long journey ahead. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 13.5%
Production: 352
Bottled: July 2023
Release: March 2024