

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2022 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

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 2022 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, 99% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

Deftly balanced and refined, the 2022 Songbook is a rich, dramatic wine that soars from the glass with aromas of cherries, blackberries, and pine forest floor mingled with hints of violets, mulberries, and Sichuan peppers. Cast iron, black pepper, and mincemeat pie flavors add savory elements. Layered and seamless, it is lithe and polished, with a core of fine supple tannins. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec
Alcohol: 13.6%
Production: 299
Bottled: July 2024
Release: March 2025