

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2023 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

A healthy and generous winter rainfall season returned to Napa in 2023. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for an even and generous fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with foggy mornings, and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet profound, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm days. The pristine ripening conditions allowed for intense fruit flavor concentration.

Vineyards

The 2023 Songbook is sourced from three acclaimed Napa Valley vineyards. From legendary viticulturist David Abreu's Madrona Ranch Vineyard, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range, and Lucia Vineyard planted atop Howell Mountain, and our esteemed 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 innovative optical sorter and a slow, individual berry hand sort. Whole berries were 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, 91% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

The elegant and flawlessly integrated 2023 Songbook flaunts an expressive nose of warm dark cherries, blackberries, and mulberries, mingled with hints of violets and a pine forest floor essence. The medium to full-bodied palate is taut with muscular black fruit layers, licorice, bay leaves, and savory notes of grilled herbs, cast iron, dried leaves, and tobacco. Notes of smoked cardamon and Sichuan peppers add complexity. It is lithe and polished with fine, supple tannins, great freshness, and a long, earthy finish. — Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot, 3% Merlot
Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 486
Bottled: July 2025
Release: February 2026