

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2023 CLIFF LEDE “CROSSFADE” 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

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 intense fruit flavor concentration.

Vineyards

The 2023 Crossfade is skillfully woven together from some of the top *Grand Cru* of Napa Valley. Our prestigious Stags Leap District Poetry and Rhythm Vineyards provide the foundation, while acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu’s Madrona Ranch Vineyard in St. Helena and Lucia Vineyard on Howell Mountain lend accents. 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 innovative 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 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, 71% of which were new, for twenty-two months.

Winemaker Notes

The charming and lush 2023 Crossfade features an incredibly complex nose of charcoal embers, blackberry, cassis, warm mulberries, and a delightful array of forest floor notes. A co-fermented lot of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc plays the leading role, sending forth a whirlwind of cigar tobacco, Ancho chile, dried leaves, and mineral notes. A crescendo of malted chocolate and roasted chestnut flavors ride out along the balanced finish of this unique and singular wine. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Cabernet Franc, 3% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec
Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 1260 cases
Bottling Date: July 2025
Release Date: October 2025