

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2025 CLIFF LEDE SAUVIGNON BLANC, 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 frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for an even and generous fruit set. Early summer conditions were moderate, with foggy mornings, and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. Late summer turned warm with big diurnal stretches. Luckily, the nights were cold, and our acid levels remained great, but the warmer days set the stage for an earlier harvest. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet profound, structure.

Vineyards

Our Sauvignon Blanc is a lively, yet elegant, expression of this varietal that gathers its complexity from both the diversity of terroir running north to south in the Napa Valley and from the inclusion of the rich and unctuous Sémillon grape. This blend includes Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon from our estate vineyards in Calistoga, Stags Leap District, and Carneros. A grower vineyard in eastern Rutherford is home to old vines planted to a heritage Musqué clone that provides density, richness, and lemon citrus notes. Finally, old vine Sémillon from another site in Calistoga gives the wine an expansive mouth-coating richness that is the hallmark of our style.

Winemaking

The fruit was hand-harvested in the cool darkness of night and arrived at the winery at dawn. The grapes were held in controlled low oxygen and cold temperatures. Gentle, whole cluster pressing released the delicate, prized juices, and created a deeper level of complexity. The juice was fermented in 55% French oak barrels, 35% of which were new, and 45% stainless steel tanks. All fermentation was conducted at cold temperatures to preserve the freshness of the fruit. Upon reaching dryness, the wine was aged on its lees and select lots underwent occasional *bâtonnage*.

Winemaker Notes

This 2025 Sauvignon Blanc, complemented by 18% Sémillon, is an amazing aromatic amalgam of pineapple, lime, grapefruit, passion fruit, and peppermint, woven together with white currant, chalk dust, and an array of herbs and flowers. The palate unfolds with tart white pear, kiwi, lemon curd, orange marmalade, and minerality. Aging on the lees adds depth and complexity, bringing forward nuances of fresh pastry and toasted brioche, balanced by a touch of clay and fleur de sel. It finishes with ravishing refinement, lightness of touch, and a lingering delicacy of citrus. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 82% Sauvignon Blanc and 18% Sémillon
Alcohol: 13.5%
Production: 6,400 cases
Bottling Date: April 2026
Release Date: May 2026