

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2022 CLIFF LEDE “WILD FANTASY” RED WINE, ROCK BLOCK SERIES, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

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

Our estate vineyard blocks are named after Cliff's favorite rock songs and albums. The name of this blend is derived from "Born to be Wild" from Steppenwolf and "Dear Mr. Fantasy" from Traffic. We utilize both the gravelly, alluvial soils of our Rhythm Vineyard and the steep, rocky volcanic slopes of the Poetry Vineyard to create this unique blend.

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. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to small tanks 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, 86% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

The inky 2022 Wild Fantasy features a glass-coating, saturated opaque purple color. The wine offers a sexy bouquet of pain grille, Asian spices, pencil lead, mineral, lavender, blueberry, and black cherry. On the palate, there is layer upon layer of savory fruit, spice notes, espresso, and chocolate as well as exquisite balance. Finely grained polished tannins race along the finish and grace the velvety supple crescendo. -Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition:	61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Malbec, 13% Petit Verdot, and 4% Merlot
Alcohol:	13.8%
Production:	878 cases
Bottling Date:	July 2024
Release Date:	April 2025

These go to eleven.