

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2015 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

Vintage

The 2015 vintage was a wonderfully classic year for Napa Valley wines. A dry winter, followed by warm spring temperatures, led to an early bud break that set the stage for one of the earliest harvests on record. Crop levels were lower than average due to dry conditions and a cool weather spell during flowering. The dry soils led to low vigor vines and small berries, creating very concentrated fruit. With lovely summer weather, it was our earliest harvest on record and the red wines we produced are opulent, voluptuous wines with incredible concentration.

Vineyards

Our Diamond Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon comes from exceptional, low-yielding vineyards with volcanic ash and gravelly loam soils in the Diamond Mountain appellation, nestled in the Mayacamas Range on the northwest side of Napa Valley. The sun-drenched mountain vineyards have late afternoon breezes that ripen the fruit slowly and evenly. Both sites are planted to extraordinary old vines on a steep incline with historic Napa field selections and produce age-worthy Cabernet Sauvignon with dark fruit, intense structure, minerality, and perfume.

Winemaking

Hand harvested in the cool early morning hours, the fruit was immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process, including our cutting edge optical sorter, with a goal of eliminating less-than-perfect berries. The berries were gently gravity-delivered to tank using our distinctive crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted five days and fermentations were managed via a combination of *délestage*, punch downs and pump overs. Extended maceration for four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles. The wine underwent twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak, 75% new.

Winemaker Notes

The fabulous bouquet of the 2015 Diamond Mountain offers lavish aromas of cassis, rose petal, and bay laurel scented blackberry compote. Summer fig and wild black cherry flavors soar along the palate and layer after layer of chocolate ganache, ancho chile, talc, and blueberry notes unfold with time in the decanter. There is a noble concentration and weight here, but the wine is deftly balanced and never loses its lithe and ethereal personality. The incredibly long wine finishes with bravura and a dazzling display of ground cumin, cedar, and jasmine aromas. – Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

Analysis

Composition:	96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	15.3%
Bottling Date:	July 2017
Release Date:	December 2018
Production:	440 Cases