

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2019 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, CALISTOGA

Vintage

The 2019 vintage was a magnificent year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by a cool wet spring that included three inches of rain in May. Luckily, the rain didn't affect set and the weather turned warm and sunny for the duration of spring. Welcome warm nights in June, July, and August caught maturation back on schedule. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wine shows exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm, but not hot, days. The pristine ripening conditions allowed for very intense fruit flavor concentrations.

Vineyards

Located at the base of Diamond Mountain in the western portion of the Calistoga appellation, our Calistoga estate vineyard has twenty acres planted mostly to Cabernet Sauvignon. The gravelly loam soils are volcanic in origin with alluvial influence made evident by copious amounts of water-rolled gravel and large cobbles. While Calistoga can experience quite hot daytime temperatures, our estate is protected from the afternoon sun by Diamond Mountain to our west. Cool breezes from the Pacific are drawn in by the narrow gap between Napa and Sonoma Counties, further mediating the hot days. The result is powerful, rich Cabernet with balanced acidity.

Winemaking

Hand harvested in the cool dark of night, the fruit was brought to the winery and 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 selected fruit was gently delivered to tank via gravity by our crane system, retaining perfect, whole berries. Cold soaks lasted approximately five days, and fermentations were managed by a combination of *délestage* and pump overs. Extended maceration, ranging from three to four weeks, fine-tuned tannin profiles, allowing us to build structure and wine complexity. The wine was aged in French oak barrels, 9% of which were new, for twenty-one months.

Winemaker Notes

An abundance of mineral and rocky gravel notes dominate the darkly colored 2019 Calistoga's bouquet. There is also reams of seductive blackberry liqueur, dark chocolate, and smoked cardamom amongst the stony aromas. With a wide, rich, and expansive entry the mid-palate turns serious and contemplative with a beam of fresh acidity and supple tannin that lends weight and agility. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

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| Composition: | 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot |
| Alcohol: | 14.8% |
| Bottling Date: | July 2021 |
| Release Date: | October 2022 |
| Production: | 564 Cases |