

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY

2019 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

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

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 which 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 pumpovers. Extended maceration for four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles. The wine underwent twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels 69% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

The 2019 Diamond Mountain aromas bear the woody stamp of its forested terroir. Flowing from the glass are dried cassis berries tinged with a camphorous pine and fir needle bouquet. Amongst the lush blackberry, lychee, and raspberry notes lie essence of bergamot and cedar. The sweet tannin and rich entry are grounded mid-palate by touches of balsam fragrance and balanced tannin. This wine finishes with warm and exotic sweet notes with an essence of cinnamon, juniper, and sandalwood. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.5%
Bottling Date: July 2021
Release Date: October 2022
Production: 520 cases