

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2023 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, HOWELL MOUNTAIN

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 healthy and generous winter rainfall season returned to Napa in 2023. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for an even and generous fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with foggy mornings, and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet profound, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm days. The pristine ripening conditions allowed for intense fruit flavor concentration.

#### Vineyards

Exceptional high-elevation vineyards in the Howell Mountain appellation produce intensely concentrated grapes. Soils are volcanic in origin and consist of two main types: the first is decomposed volcanic ash called tufa, and the second is red volcanic rock and clay that is high in iron. Both are nutrient-poor, which stresses the vines, producing intense and structured wines from small clusters and berries. The altitude, climate, and soils combine to create a classic mountain Cabernet Sauvignon with incredible concentration, texture, and structure.

#### 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 innovative optical sorter, to eliminate 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, 52% of which were new, for twenty-one months.

#### Winemaker Notes

Inky purple to the rim, the 2023 Howell Mountain leads with an extraordinary nose of sweet mulberry, intense graphite, forest floor, smoldering wood charcoal, and a delicious panoply of blackberry and cassis fruit. Red and black licorice flavors burst out on the palate with notes of black truffle and cardamon giving the wine depth and complexity. Fully integrated and immediately enjoyable, this wine charms the taster and demands another taste. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

#### Analysis

|                |                                                    |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Composition:   | 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot |
| Alcohol:       | 13.6%                                              |
| Production:    | 502 cases                                          |
| Bottling Date: | July 2025                                          |
| Release Date:  | October 2025                                       |