

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

NAPA VALLEY

2019 CLIFF LEDE “SONGBOOK” CABERNET SAUVIGNON, NAPA VALLEY

Songbook represents a collection of vineyard sources that we have been fortunate enough to access to create this beautiful wine. When Cliff Lede was new to Napa Valley in the early 2000s, he was introduced to some of the top growers and consultants in this small community, creating fast friendships and partnerships. We are grateful to work with many grower partners who, like us, take pride in farming to the highest level.

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. Summer conditions were moderate and 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

2019 Songbook is sourced from two acclaimed Napa Valley vineyards: Lucia Abreu Vineyard located in the Howell Mountain AVA, and Abreu's Madrona Ranch Vineyard, nestled in the foothills of the Mayacamas mountain range. These vineyards produce grapes of exceptional character resulting from proprietary clones, extremely low yields, and meticulous farming. The result is a winemaker's dream.

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, 91% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

The dark and beguiling 2019 Songbook features seductive notes of warm blackberries, cassis, and chocolate cake with touches of clove, sandalwood, anise, and exotic incense. The wine opens with flavors of mulberry, fig paste, and blueberry, with woody notes of cedar, bay laurel, and piñon. Deep and expansive across the palate, hints of mint, amaretto, and iron emerge and add layers to this complex and delicious red wine.

-Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.3%
Bottled: July 2021
Release: March 2023
Production: 491 cases