

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2011 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 2011 vintage began with cool, wet weather that extended into spring; fully replenishing our reservoirs and water tables. Rain during flowering affected set for some varieties, causing shatter and lowering yields. Low temperatures delayed bud break and initial canopy development, but as the season progressed the vines developed healthy, vigorous canopies. Mild weather persisted through the summer and autumn resulting in the coolest vintage on record. Berry development and ripening were delayed by three weeks or more leading to full ripeness at low sugar levels and vibrant acidity. Many vineyards were dry farmed, or watered only once during the season, to further concentrate the fruit. This is a vintage where diligent farming practices, including intensive canopy management and low yields, have produced elegant wines with lovely balance and structure.

#### Vineyards

The 2011 Songbook was sourced from acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu’s personal properties Thorevilos Vineyard and Madrona Ranch. 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

Grapes were hand-picked into small lug bins in the darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection with our optical sorter and a berry-by-berry hand sorting process. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to tank by our unique crane system, retaining the integrity of whole berries. Cold soaks lasted four to six days, and fermentations were managed by a combination of *délestage* and pumpovers. Extended maceration for four weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles and allowed us to perfect mouth feel and complexity. This wine underwent eighteen months of *élevage* in new French oak.

#### Winemaker Notes

Aromas of black plum, cassis, and candied violets dance together with an intense perfume of sandalwood, sage and pine in a performance that intrigues the senses. A silky, supple entry segues into a luscious, juicy mid-palate and a finale of talc minerality, expressive of Thorevilos Cabernet grown in tufa soils. The Cabernet Franc from Madrona Ranch lends aromatic lift, structure, and power to the blend, while Thorevilos Merlot adds finesse. This wine is a textural experience of dark exotic fruit harmonized with sueded, graphite minerality, as appealing as wearing your favorite cashmere sweater in front of a cozy fireplace. Enjoy the evolution in your glass.

#### Analysis

Composition: 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc, 9% Merlot  
Alcohol: 14.4%  
Bottled: July 2013  
Release: February 2015  
Production: 253 cases