

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2014 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 2014 vintage was a vintner’s dream. A dry winter with unseasonably warm temperatures prompted an early bud break, leading to one of the earliest harvests on record. Moderate weather throughout the spring and summer allowed the vines to achieve a good set. The dry conditions led to low vigor vines and small, abundant berries, creating very concentrated fruit that ripened with the warm fall days. With lovely autumn weather, harvest proceeded at a steady pace.

#### Vineyards

Songbook is sourced from two of acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu’s personally farmed properties: Thorevilos Vineyard, situated between the St. Helena and Howell Mountain AVAs, and Madrona Ranch, 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, 86% of which were new.

#### Winemaker Notes

2014 Songbook is a fascinating combination of transcendent perfume and multitudinous flavors derived from these two celebrated vineyards. They intertwine in a way that makes a wine so complex that it defies traditional descriptions of Cabernet-based wines from Napa Valley. The volcanic soils of the Thorevilos Vineyard bring talc, melted dark chocolate, crème de cacao, and a core of red and black licorice aromas. The Madrona Cabernet Franc brings notes of fresh tobacco, coastal sage, pebbly rock, and dried berry. As the aromas are echoed in the flavors, essence of pine forest floor and espresso bean build seamlessly on a richly textured palate. A long crescendo of black licorice envelops the finish with accent notes of graphite and violets. -Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

#### Analysis

Composition: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot  
Bottled: July 2016  
Release: March 2018  
Production: 291 cases