

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2015 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 2015 vintage was a wonderfully classic year for Napa Valley wines. A dry winter, followed by warm spring temperatures, led to an early bud break that set the stage for one of the earliest harvests on record. Crop levels were lower than average due to dry conditions and a cool weather spell during flowering. The dry soils led to low vigor vines and small berries, creating very concentrated fruit. With lovely summer weather, it was our earliest harvest on record and the red wines we produced are opulent, voluptuous wines with incredible concentration.

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 100% new French oak barrels.

Winemaker Notes

The exotic and alluring 2015 Songbook is poised to become our best ever. A study in balanced freshness and precise, focused flavors, this buoyant elixir is perfumed with blueberry, blackberry, and a gravelly pine forest floor. There is lots of savory umami essence with nori wrapper, white truffle, and shiitake dusted grilled ribeye *jus* echoing in the aromas and flavors. On the finish, cocoa powder, new tobacco, and sage leaf aromatics waft in the retro nasal cavities while layers of unctuous black licorice, wild raspberries, white chocolate, and sea salt caramel notes linger on the long finish.

-Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

Analysis

Composition: 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 11% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot
Bottled: July 2017
Release: March 2019
Production: 343 cases