

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2022 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, RUTHERFORD

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

Warm temperatures in February and March jumpstarted an early 2022 growing season. Early budbreak often comes with the vulnerability to frost, but luckily our vines suffered no damage during the cool spring nights. Early irrigations were necessary to set up healthy canopies and the vines set an average crop after an uneventful bloom period. The uniform and even clusters needed little thinning, and attention was paid to sculpting the shoots and laterals to ensure adequate shading and airflow throughout the fruiting positions. Late August was hot, and September was forecasted to be even hotter, so we began picking rapidly to preserve the fresh acidities and delicate aromatics already present in the grapes.

#### Vineyards

An exceptional benchland vineyard in the Rutherford appellation produces intensely concentrated grapes for this wine. Planted at the foot of a steep canyon on the western hills of Rutherford, the rocky and loamy soils were formed by eons of erosion from the mountains above. The aspect, climate, and soils combine to create a classic Rutherford 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 cutting-edge 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 a combination of délestage and pump overs managed fermentations. 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, 77% of which were new, for twenty-one months.

#### Winemaker Notes

The aromatic components of the 2022 Rutherford are deliciously integrated even in its youth. Loamy gravel notes, warm cassis, wild blackberry, bay laurel, and licorice root fill the palate and bouquet. Damson plum, warm mission fig, juniper, and turmeric spice decorate the long and plush finish. Precise and well defined, this young wine struts unctuous nature with purity on the palate. - Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

#### Analysis

Composition:	89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot
Alcohol:	13.8%
Production:	525 cases
Bottling Date:	July 2024
Release Date:	December 2024