

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2023 CLIFF LEDE CABERNET SAUVIGNON, OAKVILLE

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

A healthy and generous winter rainfall season returned to Napa in 2023. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for an even and generous fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with foggy mornings, and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet profound, structure. Optimal ripeness was achieved thanks to an early autumn of consistently warm days. The pristine ripening conditions allowed for intense fruit flavor concentration.

Vineyards

An exceptional vineyard in the Oakville appellation produces intensely concentrated grapes for this wine. Planted on the southeast border of Oakville, this extremely rocky vineyard's soil is composed of stones made round by the weathering of Rector Creek's stream over the millennia. The poor stony soils restrict vine vigor and allow the vines to only produce small berries inherent with incredible concentration. The heat retained by these rocky soils helps ripen the clusters and lends a silky lush texture to the tannins and finish.

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 innovative optical sorter, to eliminate less-than-perfect berries. The selected fruit was delivered to tank via gravity by our crane system, retaining perfect, whole berries. Cold soaks lasted approximately five days, and fermentations were managed by a combination of *délestage* and pump overs. 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, 32% of which were new, for twenty-one months.

Winemaker Notes

The 2023 Oakville opens with a vibrant, inviting bouquet of ripe blackberries, black cherries, and fresh currants, lifted by hints of black licorice, violets, warm stones, and a beguiling touch of salted chocolate. Medium-bodied and beautifully elegant, the palate is finely textured yet built for the ages. The intense black and red fruit flavors are accented by layers of mineral, spice, and floral notes, finishing with incredible length and depth. - Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 98% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Merlot
Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 460 cases
Bottling Date: July 2025
Release Date: February 2026