

# CLIFF LEDE

## VINEYARDS

### 2023 CLIFF LEDE “RHYTHM” CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

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 intense fruit flavor concentration.

#### Vineyards

The Rhythm Vineyard is located on the subtle slopes of our Stags Leap District estate. Defined by two large hills at its southern border, this vineyard surrounds our winery and reaches west toward the Napa River. The Rhythm Vineyard's soil is composed of gravelly loam of varying depths and rock content. The incredibly diverse soil profile enables us to farm several small blocks of Cabernet Sauvignon and additional Bordeaux varieties with unique combinations of clonal selections and rootstocks.

#### Winemaking

In the cool darkness of night, grapes were hand-picked into small 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 innovative optical sorter and a slow, individual berry hand sort. The fruit was 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, 83% of which were new.

#### Winemaker Notes

The 2023 Rhythm gushes from the glass with aromas of violets, rich black currants, and blackberries, giving way to nuances of truffle-like loamy soil notes. Those same flavors echo seamlessly across the palate with energetic black fruits, Ancho chile, smoked cardamom, and rose petal notes flitting on the long and sumptuous finish. Lively acids and a fine sense of precision linger long after tasting, making another sip irresistible. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

#### Analysis

Composition : 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot  
Alcohol: 13.6%  
Production: 2,786 cases  
Bottling Date: July 2025  
Release Date: December 2025