

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2023 CLIFF LEDE “HIGH FIDELITY” RED WINE, NAPA VALLEY

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

Our estate High Fidelity and Rhythm vineyards contribute Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon to the blend, with additional Cabernet Franc hailing from acclaimed viticulturist David Abreu’s Madrona Ranch. The vineyards are farmed with meticulous attention to detail, maintaining yields at sparse levels—ranging from two to three tons per acre. The wine is composed of just a few of our best lots from these most cherished sites.

Winemaking

Grapes were picked in the darkness of the early morning hours. The freshly harvested fruit immediately underwent rigorous selection by our three-tiered sorting process, which included our cutting-edge optical sorter. Whole berries were gently delivered by gravity to tank using our crane system, minimizing disruption of berry integrity. Cold soaks lasted approximately seven days, and fermentations were managed via a combination of *délestage*, pumpovers, and punchdowns. Extended maceration ranging from four to five weeks fine-tuned our tannin profiles, allowing us to perfect mouth feel and wine complexity. The wine was aged in French oak barrels, 78% of which were new, for twenty-two months.

Winemaker Notes

The 2023 High Fidelity simmers in the glass with warm plum, smoked paprika, burning incense, autumn leaves, and exotic spices. Rose water, cigar wrapper, and licorice echo on the palate with a core of crème de cassis, dried cherries, and a touch of black tea. Full-bodied, rich and velvety, it's layered and unctuous, with powdery tannins and a broad, enveloping personality, concluding with a long, fragrant finish reminiscent of cardamom and Luxardo cherries. -Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 38% Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot, and 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.0%
Production: 1,193 cases
Bottling Date: July 2025
Release Date: February 2026