

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2023 CLIFF LEDE “POETRY”, 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.

Vineyard

The Poetry Vineyard, carved into a steep west-facing hillside, reaches from the highest elevations of the Stags Leap District appellation to the valley floor. This vineyard draws its uniqueness from shallow, volcanic soils atop fractured shale. Due to the stressful nature of the site, planted with high vine density and farmed to exceptionally low yields, the vines develop slowly and produce small, flavorful berries. The vineyard is planted to legendary, proprietary heritage selections of Cabernet Sauvignon.

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 innovative optical sorter and a slow, individual berry hand sort. Whole berries were gently delivered by gravity to tank 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 four weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. Following twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 83% of which were new, the blend was selected from our best lots of the Poetry Vineyard.

Winemaker Notes

This 2023 Poetry is wound tightly at this youthful stage, revealing immense concentration and a dense core of blackberries, cassis, and tart raspberries. Savory layers of smoke, roasted peppers, and herbs provide heady complexity that grounds the vibrant fruit. The mouthfeel is defined by mineral tension and a distinctive powdery tannin structure that builds through the mid-palate, carrying into a finish of exceptional length and grip. While muscular now, its balance ensures a long, graceful evolution in the cellar. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc
Alcohol: 13.6%
Production: 2,125 cases
Bottling Date: July 2025
Release Date: September 2026