

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2024 CLIFF LEDE “RADIO EDIT” RED BLEND, NAPA VALLEY

Cliff Lede Vineyards is a leading family-owned and operated winery located in Napa Valley’s famed Stags Leap District. Since 2002, the Lede family has crafted wines of extraordinary quality with authenticity and sustainability in mind.

Vintage

A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for an even and generous fruit set. Early summer conditions were moderate, with foggy mornings and cool nights, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. Late summer turned warm with big diurnal stretches. Luckily, the nights were cold, and our acid levels remained great, but the warmer days set the stage for an earlier harvest. The wines show exceptional balance with concentrated, ripe fruit complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet profound, structure.

Vineyards

Our 87-acre High Fidelity Vineyard in Carneros was added to our estate in 2019. The vineyard is comprised of clay and loam-based soils and boasts an exposed flat section on the east side with rolling hills to the west. The Merlot sections are planted with clones selected from historic California vineyards that have produced legendary wines for over one hundred years. Each excels in the terroir and gives the wine a different layer of complexity, highlighting the cool climate of Carneros and our native soils.

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 innovative 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

This exceptional Merlot unfolds in the glass to reveal an effusive bouquet of black cherries, cassis, fresh red and black plums, mulberries, and blackberries. Deep undertones of vanilla, dried herbs, violets, clay, and black truffle add complexity. On the palate, it is medium to full-bodied with depth and a velvety texture. This fabulously rich wine is jam-packed with minerals and perfume, highlighting extraordinary concentration and a long, persistent finish. – Christopher Tynan, Director of Winemaking

Analysis

Composition: 93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon
Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 946 cases
Bottling Date: July 2026
Release Date: October 2026