

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2008 CLIFF LEDE "POETRY" CABERNET SAUVIGNON, STAGS LEAP DISTRICT

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Owner Cliff Lede, viticulturalist David Abreu, Associate Winemaker Kale Anderson, and consultant Philippe Melka have come together to form an unrivalled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Vintage

A dry winter resulted in low soil moisture at the start of the growing cycle. The vines began early growth with a gentle warm spell in March. A sustained spring frost season trimmed yields. Foggy mornings helped to retain the integrity and freshness of the fruit, while classic, warm Napa afternoons carried ripeness toward harvest. Tiny berries the size of wild blueberries and near record low yields produced flavors of remarkable depth and complexity.

Vineyard

The Poetry Vineyard, carved into a steep west-facing hillside, reaches from the highest elevations of the Stags Leap District appellation down to the valley floor. This vineyard's soul is derived from shallow soils atop fractured shale. The small vines develop slowly, and naturally yield small berries due to the stressful nature of the site.

Winemaking

Grapes were picked in the cool darkness of the early morning hours, and immediately subjected to rigorous selection by our three-tiered hand sorting process. The fruit was gently delivered to tank by our unique crane system, assuring a high percentage of whole berries. Cold soaks lasted approximately five to eight days and fermentations were managed through a combination of *delestage* and pumpovers. Extended maceration of two and a half to five weeks ensured exceptional extraction and a fine-tuning of tannin profiles. The components that make up this wine underwent eighteen months of *levage* in new French oak.

Tasting Notes

Seductive aromas of raspberry mousse, violets, allspice and graphite emanate from the glass. The palate is a combination of power and finesse. Rich layers of chocolate and cassis develop quickly in the mid-palate supported by a classic Stags Leap minerality. Luscious, soft, rounded tannins extend into the lengthy finish. While the wine offers pleasures now, patient cellaring will reveal even greater elegance.

Analysis

Composition: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Malbec
Alcohol: 14.9%
Bottling Date: June 2010
Release Date: October 2011
Production: 960 cases