

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2013 Cliff Lede “Poetry” Cabernet Sauvignon, Stags Leap District

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District. Cliff Lede, Vineyard Architect David Abreu, and Winemaker Christopher Tynan have come together to form an unrivaled team, making the most of this remarkable property.

Vintage

An early growing season led the way to an excellent vintage in 2013. A warm, dry spring brought early bud break and uniform vine growth. A heat wave in late June led to an early and even veraison, followed by steady maturation during the temperate late summer and early fall. Ideal weather, with no detrimental heat spikes or rain events, allowed us to harvest individual vineyard blocks at optimal ripeness with no constraints. Yields were plentiful, due to the favorable weather during bloom, but berries remained small, resulting in wines of exceptional depth and concentration. Slow ripening retained acidity, creating wines that are balanced, profound, and beautiful.

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 very low yields, the vines develop slowly and produce small flavorful berries.

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 cutting edge optical sorter and a slow, individual berry, hand sort. The fruit was gently gravity-delivered to small tanks and wooden *cuvées* 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 pumpovers and *délestage*. Extended maceration of up to six weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. Following eighteen months of *élevage* in new French oak, the blend was selected from our best lots of the Poetry Vineyard.

Wine Profile

This luxurious, exacting wine is the epitome of finesse, purity, and distinction. Intricate aromas abound, with refined layers of black and red currants, dark cocoa powder, warm black cherry, Kadota fig, and cedar forest floor enveloping the glass. The complex perfume unfolds further with a seamless integration of spring violets, slate, cardamom, and graphite. Structurally, the wine shows a nimble sophisticated restraint, with precise tannins that cradle the palate and carry the flavors to a long finish. The culmination of flavors and aromas persist joyfully with the savour of warm stone and weathered rocks reflecting the terroir of the Poetry Vineyard.

Analysis

Composition: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc, 1% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot
Alcohol: 14.9%
Bottling Date: July 2015
Release Date: September 2016
Production: 822 cases