

CLIFF LEDE

VINEYARDS

2014 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

The 2014 vintage was a vintner’s dream. A dry winter with unseasonably warm temperatures prompted an early bud break, leading to one of the earliest harvests on record. Moderate weather throughout the spring and summer allowed the vines to achieve a good set. The dry conditions led to low vigor vines and small, abundant berries, creating very concentrated fruit that ripened with the warm fall days. With lovely autumn weather, harvest proceeded at a steady pace.

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 *cuvés* 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 six weeks ensured exceptional extraction and fine-tuning of tannin profiles. Following twenty-one months of *élevage* in French oak barrels, 72% of which were new, the blend was selected from our best lots of the Poetry Vineyard.

Winemaker Notes

The young 2014 Poetry is a tightly wound rose bud that slowly unfolds its petals of aromas with time. The brooding and mineral laden nose is loaded with cold slate, graphite, and violets. Concentrated flavors of wild blackberry, Aztec chocolate, summer fig, and roasted red beets charm the entry while spice notes of cumin, sage, and cracked pepper lend complex and layered nuance. The wine’s luxurious velvety texture fills the palate as the lengthy finish continues with unctuous cassis, black olive, and clove. This is a wine with a lot of heart, so patience will reward the enduring collector who can stash this beauty away for a few years.

-Christopher Tynan, Winemaker

Analysis

Composition: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 6% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot
Bottling Date: July 2016
Release Date: September 2017
Production: 829 cases