



CLUB 70
3rd Quarter 2015 - September

Cliff Lede 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Retail - \$85

Established in 2002, Cliff Lede Vineyards encompasses sixty acres in the famed Stags Leap District.

The 2012 vintage was a glorious year for Napa Valley. A frost-free and uniform bud break was followed by steady spring weather during flowering, allowing for even fruit set. Summer conditions were moderate, with warm days, cool nights, and minimal heat spikes, ideal for slow and steady grape maturation. The wine shows exceptional balance with concentrated ripe fruit, complemented by bright acidity and supple, yet intense, structure. Skillful crop thinning and an early autumn of consistently warm days helped the vineyards achieve optimal ripeness.

Enticing aromas of crushed blackberries and cassis are complemented by dark chocolate and grilled ribeye. Black licorice, cocoa powder, and espresso add complexity to this opulent wine. Exceptional concentration and a rich mouthfeel create a powerful impression that finishes with polished tannins and a Graves-like minerality, a hallmark of Stags Leap District vineyards. One of my favorites!

Composition: 78% Cabernet Sauvignon 8% Petite Verdot 6% Cabernet Franc 5% Malbec 3% Merlot; 93 points from Robert Parker

Duckhorn 2012 Three Palms Cabernet Sauvignon Retail - \$95

As winemaker, Renée works in small lots to preserve the rich complexity of the fruit in the Duckhorn winegrowing program. "From our own Estate vineyards to legendary sites like Three Palms, I am incredibly fortunate to work with some of Napa Valley's most exceptional grapes," says Renée. "When you work with fruit of this quality, there is no recipe or formula. My job is to let the vineyards speak and convey the soul of the wine."

One of California's legendary vineyards, Three Palms is revered for its history and its benchmark wines. While Three Palms is rightfully legendary for its inaugural Merlot vintage in 1978, this wine shines a spotlight on the profound quality and character of its Cabernet Sauvignon. From its layered aromas of mahogany, marionberry, garam masala and flint to its flavors of blackberry, dark chocolate, wet stone and anise, this is a fascinating wine, with a rich, fleshy mid-palate and a long thought-provoking finish. Normally, this wine is only sold at the winery. We were lucky to get it!

Composition: 84% Cabernet Sauvignon 10% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 2% Petite Verdot 1% Malbec; Alcohol: 14.5%

- Bert