



Robert Parker's
Wine Advocate

NEW RELEASES FROM NAPA VALLEY

by Antonio Galloni

CLIFF LEDE	2009	HIGH FIDELITY	NAPA VALLEY	(\$75.00)	RED	90
CLIFF LEDE	2009	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(\$60.00)	RED	91
CLIFF LEDE	2009	CAB. SAUV. CINNAMON RHAPSODY	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(\$90.00)	RED	93
CLIFF LEDE	2009	CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONGBOOK	NAPA VALLEY	(\$150.00)	RED	(93-95)
CLIFF LEDE	2009	CABERNET SAUVIGNON POETRY	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(\$175.00)	RED	(94-96)
CLIFF LEDE	2010	HIGH FIDELITY	NAPA VALLEY	(not available yet)	RED	(91-93)
CLIFF LEDE	2010	CABERNET SAUVIGNON	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(not available yet)	RED	(91-93)
CLIFF LEDE	2010	CABERNET SAUV. LANDSLIDE FIRE	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(not available yet)	RED	(92-94)
CLIFF LEDE	2010	CABERNET SAUVIGNON SONGBOOK	NAPA VALLEY	(not available yet)	RED	(94-96)
CLIFF LEDE	2010	CABERNET SAUVIGNON POETRY	STAGS LEAP DISTRICT	(not available yet)	RED	(93-95)

Cliff Lede describes this version of his winery as 'version 2.0' after David Abreu came in and re-planted a number of vineyards. Philippe Melka is the consulting winemaker. In broad terms, Lede's 2009s are made in a more finessed style than the 2010s, which come across as more powerful and structured. Both vintages are terrific, but very

27% Malbec and 9% Merlot. The high percentage of Cabernet Franc comes through nicely in the expressive aromatics. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. The **2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District** shows off considerable focus and depth, not to mention terrific overall balance. Dark plums, cherries, spices, licorice and cassis are some of the notes that flow from this long, pure wine. Today the tannins are a bit compact, but bottle age should help to some degree. The 2009 is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Merlot. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The **2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Cinnamon Rhapsody** is quite a bit richer and rounder than the Stags Leap. It boasts striking inner perfume and gorgeous textural richness all the way through to the generous, creamy finish. The blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec and 1% Merlot. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The **2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Songbook** is a striking wine graced with exquisite perfume and finessed, silky tannins. There is a fair amount of Cabernet Franc in the blend, which accounts for much of the wine's personality. This is one of the more elegant, layered wines in the Cliff Lede portfolio. Sweet spices, flowers and dark red fruit wrap around the textured finish. Songbook is all elegance and class. Lede sources the fruit for Songbook from David Abreu's Madrona Ranch and Thorevilos vineyards. In 2009 the blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. Lede's **2009 Cabernet Sauvignon Poetry** is marvelous in its completeness. An expressive, open bouquet melds into dark cherries, plums, spices and minerals. Firm yet well-integrated tannins frame a finish defined by superb textural finesse. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 9% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024.

The **2010 High Fidelity** is a big, big wine. It is quite different than the 2009, largely owing to the much higher percentage of Merlot and lower percentage of Cabernet Franc. Rich, dark and seamless, the

different in style.

The **2009 High Fidelity** is a gorgeous, deep wine layered with plums, black cherries, spices, grilled herbs and espresso. It boasts gorgeous depth and richness in a full-bodied, beautifully balanced style. The blend is 36% Cabernet Franc, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon,

2010 High Fidelity impresses for its fabulous depth and richness. The 2010 is fairly approachable and should drink well pretty much right out of the gate. There is a little bit less structure and aromatic complexity than in the 2009, but that should not be too much of an issue for a wine meant to be enjoyed upon release. The blend is 54% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020. The **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Stags Leap District** is gorgeous and totally inviting from start to finish. Layers of dark red fruit, spices, menthol and licorice caress the palate in this generous, hugely delicious wine. The 2010 is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025. The **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Landslide Fire** is a deep, powerful wine endowed with tons of richness in its dark fruit, flowers, spices, menthol and licorice. Layers of fruit build effortlessly to the rich, enveloping finish. This is an especially dark, intense wine that captures the essence of the vintage. The blend is 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025. The **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Songbook** is a huge, seamless wine graced with exquisite depth and sheer purity. Dark red cherries, menthol, licorice, hard candy and spices are some of the many nuances that emerge from this textured, beautifully layered wine. Flowers, mocha, sweet spices and the silkiest of tannins round out the striking finish. The Songbook is 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot from two of Napa Valley's greatest vineyards, David Abreu's Madrona Ranch and Thorevilos. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030. The **2010 Cabernet Sauvignon Poetry** is another huge wine endowed with considerable richness, but there is also plenty of freshness from the cold growing season to balance some of the wine's more extroverted tendencies. Veins of minerality provide the backdrop as layers of dark fruit flow through to the textured, deep finish. This is going to be a fascinating wine to follow. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025. Tel. (800) 428-2259