

# SCULPTERRA

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN

## 2017 CABERNET SAUVIGNON BENTLEY IRONWORKS



### THE FACTS

**Varietal Composition:** 93% Cabernet Sauvignon & 7% Petite Sirah

**Appellation:** Paso Robles

**Vineyard:** Frankel Family Estate

**Block:** Bentley Ironworks & Lago De Los Patos

**Cooperages:** Vernou & T.W. Boswell

**Barrel Program:** 35% New French Oak & 34% New American Oak

**Finished Alcohol:** 14.7%

**Residual Sugar(G/F):** 0.05 g/100ml

**Total Acid:** 0.67 g/100ml

**pH:** 3.68

**Bottling Date:** May 15, 2019

**Release Date:** December 1, 2020

**Total Production:** 310 Cases

### THE VINEYARD

2017 was a magnificent year for Sculpterra's Cabernet Sauvignon wines! The climate was favorable during the growing season and the resulting wines show amazing balance of rich character and heightened fruity flavors. Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon is a small production lot of our highest quality Cabernet on the property. The label depicts the massive entrance gates crafted by master blacksmith, Robert Bentley. The vineyard is located adjacent to Bentley's Custom Ironworks Shop and is only 3.5 acres in size. The vineyard is breathtaking; a natural creek wraps the exterior of the block while the east-west oriented rows soak up equal amounts of sunlight. The soil is comprised of many profiles, including small stone, gravel, clay-loam sections and even sandy surfaces. The vine are 'Old-World' cane pruned and trained to a trellis. The berries produced are tiny and packed with juicy flavor, intense tannins, and rich color.

### THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was harvested overnight in 2 picks and delivered to Sculpterra's onsite winery. The first lot came in at 26.0 Brix (a measurement of sugar content in the berries) and featured good color, strong acidity, and nice herbal flavors. The second pick came in at 27.5 Brix and showed, great dark color, abundant fruity flavors, and smoky notes as well. We fermented a portion of the fruit in new 500L French Oak Puncheon barrels. This open-top barrel fermentation technique imparted dense structure to the wine's aroma and mouthfeel. The wine fermented for a total of 25 days before becoming completely dry. Pressing took place over two days, followed by settling, and eventual racking down into barrels for long-term aging. We aged the wine in 69% new French and American barrels for a total of 18 months before bottling it in May of 2019.

### THE TASTE

Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon is our most superb Cabernet that we make at Sculpterra Winery. This big, bold wine tastes of blackberry pie, with a subtle dusting of clove and black pepper, giving it a lush and plush feel. Its thick and dense structure offer elongated tannins and a memorable, spicy finish without overpowering the lush fruitiness abundant in this wine. Loads of cherry, blackberry and blueberry flavors create a luxurious and well-balanced experience. The velvety smooth texture and well-integrated tannins highlight that underlying intense fruit quality and end with lingering notes of dark chocolate. This is a wine to decant when drinking, also be sure to cellar a few bottles, with proper storage and care it will taste its best in 2030.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker