

SCULPTERRA

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN

2021 CABERNET SAUVIGNON RESERVE



THE VINEYARD

2021 was a fantastic vintage for Sculpterra's Cabernet Sauvignon wines, thus it was a no-brainer to bottle up the cream of the crop Cab blend: the 2021 Reserve. Our Cabernet reserve program has been centered around the "Chivos" block, making this the predominant part of the blend and adding other lots around it. Chivos is such a classic Cabernet block and is now a 25-year-old vineyard. The vines are cane-pruned, head-trained, and only produce two tons per acre. This part of the vineyard features dramatic dangerous slopes, making it impossible to machine pick, and therefore must be hand harvested. The stony clay-loam soils provide the perfect foundation for these old vine, late-ripening Cabernet. In fact, this block is always the last to be harvested on the property. A small percentage of "Autopista" Hilltop Cabernet was added to this blend. This Hilltop Cabernet ripened earlier and tends to give more up-front fruit flavors. Finally, we added one barrel of Petite Sirah to this wine, a great addition for depth, richness, and tannins.

THE WINEMAKING

As mentioned, these grapes were the last grapes to be harvested on the Frankel Family Estate. In fact, we waited until the last conceivable moment to pick the grapes. Rain was on the way and we picked just six hours before a 1-inch downpour ended the 2021 harvest. The Cabernet "Chivos" and "Autopista" blocks were fermented in both stainless steel tanks and new 500L French and Hungarian barrels. This barrel-style fermentation makes the wine truly something special, the new toast seeps into the wine, increasing the wine's mouthfeel, dark color, and smooth texture. Fermentation lasted two weeks before we pressed, racked, and barreled down the three lots in this wine. We decided to do extended barrel aging for this wine, giving the wine plenty of time to soak up the woody bouquets. In total, just 360 cases were bottled, making this the smallest bottling from the 2021 vintage.

THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 92% Cabernet Sauvignon & 8% Petite Sirah
Appellation: Paso Robles
Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate
Block: Chivos, Autopista & Lago De Los Patos
Finished Alcohol: 14%
Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.02g/100ml
Total Acid: 0.67 g/100ml
pH: 3.50
Bottling Date: February 15, 2023
Release Date: May 1, 2023
Total Production: 360 Cases

THE TASTE

This elite Cabernet Sauvignon showcases the best fruit from two Frankel Vineyard Cabernet blocks. The dark fruit flavors are concentrated and moderately to heavy tannins hold true to the finish. The aromas are dominated by black fruit, bittersweet chocolate, and olive tapenade flavors. Overall, a very classic example of this grape variety, this is what a reserve should taste like! It's a mouth-filling wine with a nice gripping texture that matches the concentration of the deep black cherry, vanilla, grilled meats, and black pepper tang. Boasting fascinating aromas, with notes of coffee, plum, violets, cedar, and spice. The palate is big and full, yet at the same time soft and polished. It's instantly delicious upon release in late 2023, and it will age through 2027.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker