

HÉROE

2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
EL PASO DE ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

THE VINEYARD

Héroé Cabernet Sauvignon is now in its 12th vintage for Sculpterra Winery. The brand has steadily grown each year and is now a prominent label in the Paso Robles AVA. The wine honors our vineyard and winery workers, featuring the entire team on the back label. Lugardo Zatarian is pictured on the front label, "Uga," retired in 2011, and we honored his memory with this bottling. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to supporting the Flying Samaritans, who give free medical care in clinics in Baja, California. Frankel Vineyards sources the grapes from the valley-floor vineyard Bomba Vieja. This low-lying Cabernet vineyard is known for its late ripening, developed tannic taste, dark juice color, and rich textures. The vines are vertical shoot trained, allowing maximum light penetration into the clusters. The soils are a perfect mix of clay-loam and gravel. 2023 was a splendid growing season for Cabernet Sauvignon, yielding this decade's largest crop.

THE WINEMAKING

The grape harvest was one of the last for the 2023 season. We mechanically harvested the fruit at night and processed the grapes at first light. The entire lot is fermented in a temperature-controlled stainless tank. Yeast ICV-D254 was selected for its ability to enhance mouthfeel, trap dark color, bring forward red berry qualities, and stabilize the juice's natural phenolics and tannins. Fermentation was slow and steady, lasting 30 days before dryness was achieved. The wine aged 240L World Cooperage Thin Stave Missouri Oak barrels; 30% of the barrels were brand new with a variety of toast ranging from medium to heavy. Barrels were tasted and topped monthly, making it easy to see that this wine was one of the best from the vintage. The wine aged for a total of 10 months in oak before racking, blending, light filtering, and final bottling.

THE TASTE

Héroé Cabernet is consistently great every year, and this 2023 bottling is another winner! The wine is easy drinking, clean, lovely, and bright with dark berry fruits. It maintains good structure and hardness while showing off what a well-made Paso Robles Cabernet should be. The wine is helped with good acidity that balances the ripe palate and lengthy finish. It has a nose of ripe black fruit with cedar, smoke, and eucalyptus. Plum and figs are followed by elements of sweet toasted oak essences. The mouthfeel is dense and features aromas of dried blackberry, green, and black olives with hints of the forest floor. The screw cap finish makes it easy to "Pop and pour." It's going to age nicely, reaching peak taste by 2028.

THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

pH: 3.70

TA: 0.65

RS: 0.75

ALC: 13.5%

Total Production: 1,320 cases (750ml Bottles)

Bottling Date: August 16, 2024



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