

SCULPTERRA 2023 MAQUETTE

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 33% Cabernet

Sauvignon, 32% Cabernet Franc

28% Merlot & 7% Petite Verdot

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

Block: Bomba Vieja, Lago de Los Patos
& Kathy's Forest

Finished Alcohol: 14.50%

Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.04g/100ml

Total Acid: 0.64g/100ml

pH: 3.62

Bottling Date: February 12, 2025

Release Date: December 1, 2026

Total Production: 990 Cases

THE VINEYARD

Maquette is our Bordeaux blend at Sculpterra Winery. The wine comprises four Bordeaux varieties and blends five estate vineyard blocks. The mix of soil, sunlight, topography, landscape and drainage all play a crucial role, making this blend complex and full-bodied. The vintage was the best growing season for Bordeaux grapes experienced in the last 10 years. Phenolic content and tannins were at the highest levels ever seen in our vineyard! The main player in this wine is Cabernet Sauvignon, sourced from both "Chivos," and "Bomba Vieja." These 30 year-old Cab vines showcase a wonderful combination of black fruit with herbal qualities. Cabernet Franc, grown on site at "Lago De Los Patos," brings the cherry fruit while adding notes of green leaf and jalapeño. Merlot is sourced from the "Hillside" block, the highest elevated vineyard and is known for its raspberry and fruit punch finish. Finally Petite Verdot, located in "Kathy's Forest" is tannic, dry, yet contains an amazing note of fig and fruitcake.

THE WINEMAKING

In total, five wines were made and aged in separate barreled lots, only to be blended 10 days prior to bottling. All fruit was destemmed, fermented, pressed and oak barrel aged at Sculpterra for a grand total of 14 months. The harvest went late into the fall, thus extending fermentation over a month due to cold weather in late October and November. The color of each varietal in this blend is exquisite, a dark red hue coats the glass; we acquired more color in 2023 than seen in previous vintages. Chivos Cabernet was aged in NEW 500L French Oak Doreau barrels, noted for its espresso and black tea qualities. Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot aged in a perfect mix of once and twice used American, French and Hungarian barrels. We elected to bottle this wine in February 2025 with a total of 990 cases.

THE TASTE

2023 Maquette is dense in structure yet relaxed, smooth, supple and downright flavorful! 100% Estate grown; this wine shows off the "terrior" of the Frankel Family Estate like no other wine bottled at Sculpterra. The mouthfeel is plush with fine integrated tannins that bring earthy spice notes with black and red fruit. The Oak aging provides the taste of dark chocolate across the palate and into a lingering finish. This classic Bordeaux blend is ripe with dried fruit aromas and is multi-layered, finishing with nutty flavors. Aged 14 months in oak barrels, it offers notes of black currant, black plum, blueberry, cinnamon, bay leaf, dill and fennel. Firm tannins from the Cabernet Franc are matched with nice acidification from the Petit Verdot. All in all, this classic blend is poised to age gracefully and will only improve with proper cellaring.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker