



THE VINEYARD

2021 was a fantastic year at Sculpterra, especially with the Bordeaux varieties. The drought-like weather gave a classic dark fruit taste, excellent color, and lengthy tannins. This blend is 100% estate-grown from four vineyard blocks. The predominant force in this blend is Cabernet Sauvignon from two valley-floor vineyard blocks: “Chivos” and “Bentley Ironworks.” These Cabernet sites are the latest ripening. Our Cabernet vines are cane pruned; they develop small berries packed with tannins and thickened skins. They are low yielding and tend to accentuate earthy notes rather than ripe red fruits. The “Lago Del Los Patos” block gives us Cabernet Franc with flavors of black cherry, blueberry, and pleasant green notes like bay leaf, olives, and dill. We only farm one acre of Merlot, where rockier and hillier soils give way to plums, raisins, chocolate, and strawberry flavors. Our Petit Verdot vineyard is in “Kathy Forest,” protected by a towering hill above. Like the Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot is the last to harvest on the property, offering puckering acidity, round tannins, and a smoky character.

THE WINEMAKING

Bordeaux grapes are a lot of fun during winemaking! The fermentation kicks off solid and steady, and we make it fun by mixing in tank and puncheon fermentations. All grapes were machine harvested at night and processed at the winery at first light. We only destemmed, whole berry fermented, and never crushed the fruit. Each lot was cold-soaked for 24 hours before introducing specific cultured yeast. We used yeast strain “FX10” to ferment “Chivos” Cab Sauv; “Structure” to ferment “Bentley Ironworks”; and “ICVD-254” for both Petit Verdot and Merlot. The fermentation vessels were drained, the skins pressed, and the juice left to settle in the tank for two days. We aged the wine in various new and used barrels, ranging from 225L to 500L. Thirty-six percent of the wine is aged in new American Oak barrels, offering coconut, cedar, and black coffee flavors.

THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Cabernet Franc, 27% Merlot, and 9% Petit Verdot

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

Block: Chivos, Bentley Ironworks, Lago De Los Patos, Hillside, and Kathy’s Forest

Finished Alcohol: 14.2%

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

Total Acid: 0.68 g/100ml

pH: 3.54

Bottling Date: May 17, 2023

Release Date: December 1, 2023

Total Production: 600 Cases

THE TASTE

This 2021 Maquette screams Bordeaux at its best! The marriage of the four estate-grown Bordeaux varieties is effortlessly seamless and works magically from the first sip. Mature ripe, rich black fruits give this wine grippy textures and density. It has heavy tannins following bottling, but they will certainly smoothen out in the years to come. My favorite part of this wine is the tart taste of cherry pie and the floral notes of rose and geranium. Black-currant and chocolate strawberry flavors mix beautifully with toasted oak and cedar bouquets and finish with a sprinkling of roasted walnuts, dark cocoa, black olive, and coffee beans. Earth tones prevail on the mid and back palate, offering oregano and bay leaf flavors. This wine is built with a confident structure and ageable tannins.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker