



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition:
100% Merlot

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

Block: Hillside

Finished Alcohol: 13.2%

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

Total Acid: .68 g/100ml

pH: 3.70

Bottling Date: August 15, 2018

Release Date: December 1, 2018

Total Production: 225 Cases

THE VINEYARD

Sculpterra has officially brought back Merlot! We are proud to offer our wonderful 2016 estate grown 100% Merlot varietal wine. The taste is rich and firm, packed with dark fruit elements and plenty of acidity, giving the taster a pleasantly puckering experience. The 8-acre vineyard in which this high quality fruit comes from is situated atop the Frankel Family Estate. Vines are oriented north-south, soils comprised of clay-loam mixed with limestone and stony outcroppings. We planted the vineyard in 1995 and train the vines on a trellis; vertically positioning the spurs, shoots, and canes. 2016 was a terrific crop and the cluster ripened with amazing uniformity. The berries were impeccably clean at harvest and at complete ripeness, 26.5 BRIX. We harvested October 3rd 2016 starting at 4:00am! This ensured the fruit came to the winery cold, fresh, and plump, ready for the winemaker to begin.

THE WINEMAKING

Fermentation occurred for a little over 2 weeks followed by pressing, settling, racking, and was then finally placed into barrels. The wine aged in once and twice used barrels, yielding to the wine subtle bouquets of toasted wood, caramel, vanilla, chocolate and even campfire qualities. In total the wine aged for 16 months allowing for the tannins to mature and the wine's mouthfeel to soften. The barrels were routinely topped and tasted as we evaluated the wine in terms of flavor, taste, texture and color. This wine really came around after 12 months of oak aging. We bottled in the summer for 2018 and the wine is set to release for Christmas that same year. In total just 8 barrels were bottled equaling just 225 cases.

THE TASTE

Our 100% estate grown Merlot is soft, supple and dusty, displaying subtle hints of plum, cedar and vanilla. It expresses a nice complexity on the mid-palate too with textured full-bodied ripeness. The tannins are immediate yet polished, let it age for best tasting, drink now through 2025. Overall, I'd call it a crowd-pleasing wine, intense and structured, has allusions of floral components, while still being rich and round ending with freshness on the finish.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker