

# SCULPTERRA 2017 MAQUETTE

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN



## THE FACTS

### Varietal Composition:

51% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
30% Cabernet Franc, 15% Merlot,  
& 4% Petit Verdot

### Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

Block: Chivos, Puerta Electrica, Hillside,  
Lago De Los Patos, & Kathy's Forest

Finished Alcohol: 15.0%

Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.01 g/100ml

Total Acid: .67 g/100ml

pH: 3.69

Bottling Date: May 16, 2019

Release Date: December 1, 2020

Total Production: 710 Cases

## THE VINEYARD

Sculpterra's Bordeaux style blend, Maquette, is a brilliant combination of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. All fruit is grown on the Frankel Family 265-acre ranch, which includes 140 acres of grapevines and 30 acres of Pistachio Trees. The size of the property leads to diverse micro-climates that can change the way each grape matures and the ensuing flavor profile it offers. You can really taste the different blocks, topography, landscape, and soil in the makeup of this wine. From the dry, arid Hilltop Cabernet to the shady and cool Kathy's Forest Petit Verdot each block brings in different qualities, making for great diversity in aromas and flavors. Even though each block ripened at different times, 2017 was a tremendous year for all of Frankel Vineyards. The climate was more than favorable with great spring, summer and fall weather that transitioned into a steady harvest of ripe grapes.

## THE WINEMAKING

The four varieties were individually made at Sculpterra's small on-site winery. The fruit was destemmed, fermented, pressed and barrel aged for a total of 18 months. Yeast plays a big part in the makeup of these flavors and we chose a different yeast for each of these lots. Each lot would be desirable on its own, but the blend of the four offers great complexity, balance and an eager array of classic Bordeaux fruit flavors. A portion of the 'Chivos' block was aged in new 500L French Oak puncheons, adding fine structure and light toasted oak flavors to the wine. A portion of Cabernet Franc was aged in new American Oak 300L barrels, giving the wine rich, dark mocha bouquets and a lingering coffee aftertaste. The blend came together the week before bottling and in total 710 cases were produced.

## THE TASTE

This blend opens with aromas of dark-skinned berry, cedar and eucalyptus, while the structured, polished palate offers notes of cherry, blackberry jam, mocha and earthy spice alongside fine-grained tannins. The flavor is as beautiful as the bottle itself, which captures the beauty of John Jagger's "Sweet Dreams" cheetah sculpture featured at Sculpterra's amazing sculpture garden. The wine, like a cheetah, has a graceful presence yet a powerful punch! The mouthfeel is firmly wrapped in tannins, yet shows restrained black-pepper, herb and roasted fruit flavors and an enticing hint of smoke and grilled bouquets of oak. The 4 varieties, though individually crafted, come together seamlessly in this tasty blend. The varieties interweave into a cohesive whole of dark fruit with meaty strength and cohesive oak. Overall, it's soft and round on the palate. The tannins are persistent yet soft. I'd pair it with a lavish spicy Italian pasta or even a grilled lamb chop. This wine will reach its peak 2024.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker