



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 84% Primitivo, 9% Cabernet Franc, & 7% Petite Sirah

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate

Finished Alcohol: 15.4%

Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.03 g/100ml

Total Acid: 0.70 g/100ml

pH: 3.55

Bottling Date: August 21, 2019

Release Date: April 1, 2020

Total Production: 660 Cases

THE VINEYARD

2018 was an all-star growing season for Sculpterra Winery and Frankel Family Estate Vineyards and our best wines of that vintage were certainly the many tasty lots of Primitivo. Primitivo always comes in super ripe with a few raisins in each cluster. The resulting wine is concentrated in raspberry, cherry, and sweet plum-like flavors. There's plenty of structure throughout the lengthy palate, and the addition of Cabernet Franc and Petite Sirah give this bottling a unique profile unseen by any other Sculpterra wine. 2018 was a good rainfall year and proved to greatly aid the vine's ability to produce a healthy canopy for the long growing season. Summer was stretched and steady, and we harvested a full 2 weeks later than average years. The resulting wine was entirely worth the wait, with a terrific balance of sweet fruit and mild acidity.

THE WINEMAKING

As with each year, we experiment in fermentation styles with Primitivo fruit. We whole-cluster berry fermented the fruit in 10 brand new 500L barrels. What a result! The young barrel-fermented wine shows so much promise; big juicy flavors, dressed with meaty barbecue accents and ending with plenty of weight on the palate. This bottling is a blend of three Primitivo lots, all sourced from the same 8-acre Ridgeline vineyard but harvested at different times of the busy picking season. Cabernet Franc was added for its healthy dose of black olive, green pepper and strong tannins. Petite Sirah helps by adding depth of color, tight wood tannins and floral notes of lavender and rose. In total, the wine aged in 26% new American Oak for 10 months and we bottled 660 cases in August 2019.

THE TASTE

Elaborate smoke and cinnamon spice bouquets give this full-bodied wine a dramatic start. Next the aromas of black cherry and blackberry join in on the nose. It has moderate tannins for good command, but is not an overly tannic wine. Mostly the tannins come from Cabernet Franc and Petit Sirah giving the mouthfeel a certain expressive lift and poise. Flavors of blackberry and cherry are concentrated and focused while its acidity brings everything together in this big but balanced wine. Candied cherries and black plums give it a delicious classic profile, while hints of black pepper linger on the finish. The oaky play on this wine gives a perfect sense of vivid flavors and taste. This is no doubt a complex wine and it will continue to improve with cellar aging.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker