

# SCULPTERRA 2021 CABERNET FRANC

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN



## THE VINEYARD

2021 was an impressive vintage for our 100% estate grown, Cabernet Franc. The fruit is sourced from a small 1.5-acre vineyard located in front of our tasting room called “Lago De Los Patos.” I have never seen another Cabernet Franc vineyard as uniform, pristine, and healthy as ours! At 14 years of production, these vines are fully mature and are producing consistent flavors and textures. The vineyard trellis features cross arms, enabling us to pin up the shoots, exposing the fruit to direct sun and airflow. The resulting fruit picks up dark color and expresses high fruit tones. The vineyard rows are oriented directly north and south, and the south section climbs up a gradual incline until it reaches the front entrance ornamental iron gates. The vines are hand worked throughout the year and, of course, hand harvested.

## THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was fully processed at Sculpterra Winery. The grapes came in at just under seven tons, picked at 27.0 BRIX with a pH of 3.78. They were destemmed (not crushed) and fermented in a 2,234 gallon stainless tank with temperature control set below 85 degrees Fahrenheit. I selected yeast strain T-73 for fermentation; this yeast is known for its ability to soften tannins, flesh out the mid-palate, and increase mouthfeel while maintaining natural aromatic qualities. We fermented “the must” with thirty pounds of untoasted French Oak Granulates, helping to stabilize the color early on in the winemaking process. This wine smelled unbelievable during fermentation! Fermentation a total of 21 days from picking to pressing. The wine settled in tank, completed secondary fermentation in barrels, and then was racked just one time during its entire barrel aging process. We aged the wine in 100% 500L American and French Oak Puncheons...strictly big barrels for this big wine! The wine aged in barrels for a total of 22 months, giving it plenty of time to soften into a rich and tasty wine.

## THE FACTS

**Varietal Composition:**  
100% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation:** Paso Robles  
**Vineyard:** Frankel Family Estate  
**Block:** Lago De Los Patos  
**Finished Alcohol:** 14.5%  
**Residual Sugar(G/F):** 0.03 g/100ml  
**Total Acid:** 0.66 g/100ml  
**pH:** 3.68  
**Bottling Date:** August 16, 2023  
**Release Date:** January 1, 2024  
**Total Production:** 270 Cases

## THE TASTE

Our 2021 Cabernet Franc is savory and calm with classic varietal characteristics. First, I pick up fresh herbs, followed by green olives, and lastly plump black cherry and blackberry. It is framed with thick tannins that provide astringency and tight suppleness. The mid-palate is layered with fine acidity, finishing dry and savory. The ripe red fruit and dried herbal flavors are expressed through the finish. This wine is unquestionably heavy-bodied. The young tannins make it promising for long term cellaring. As it ages, aromas of cherry, raspberry, and subtle oxidized notes of cedar and vanilla will increase. Enjoy it now, or let it age another five years.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker