

SCULPTERRA

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN

2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON BENTLEY IRONWORKS



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 87% Cabernet Sauvignon & 13% Petite Sirah
Appellation: Paso Robles
Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate
Block: Bentley Ironworks & Lago De Los Patos
Cooperages: Vernou & T.W. Boswell
Barrel Program: 25% New American Oak & 25% New French Oak
Finished Alcohol: 14.9%
Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.02 g/100ml
Total Acid: 0.67 g/100ml
pH: 3.65
Bottling Date: May 19, 2021
Release Date: December 1, 2021
Total Production: 430 Cases

THE VINEYARD

Sculpterra Winery produces four different Cabernet wines and this one is the best of them all! The aromas are warm and inviting, it is easy to see why this wine is so revered. The vineyard is a small 3.5-acre plot right in front of Robert Bentley's iron shop and therefore named after him. Cripple creek runs alongside the vineyard and the rows are oriented exactly east and west. The soils are a mix of clay-loam with gravel and stones found throughout the profile. Vines are head trained yet cane pruned on a trellis and all clusters are derived from the head of the grapevines. The grapes are so uniform in this vineyard, the balance of vigor and capacity is extraordinary. Temperatures seem to be moderate in this vineyard as a towering hill protects the vines from excessive summer heat. 2019 was a splendid growing season and from pruning to picking it was clear that this would be a vintage to remember.

THE WINEMAKING

The grapes were processed at Sculpterra Winery in the order of destemming, fermenting, pressing, settling, racking and barreling down. A portion of this wine fermented in new 500L puncheon upright barrels. The wine aged in barrels for a total of 18 months, allowing the wine to "micro-oxidize" and develop barrel bouquets. Bentley Cabernet wine adapts itself perfectly to new oak barrels. Therefore, we used two styles of cooperage; French Oak 500L barrels from Vernou and American Oak 240L barrels from T.W Boswell. These new barrels offer completely different characteristics yet blended together are a unrivaled match. The Vernou barrels imparted thick tannins, cedar, and smoke, while the T.W Boswell barrels yielded bouquets of dark chocolate, campfire BBQ, and butterscotch. The barrels were topped and tasted every six weeks before blending and bottling took place in May of 2021.

THE TASTE

The taste of this wine is incredible and begins with aromas of bing-cherry, ripe figs, roasted almonds, clove, and vanilla. This impressively structured wine is blended with just 13% Petite Sirah, which adds a robust and fiery blackberry jam note on the finish. The midpalate is easy drinking and offers flavors of chocolate, tobacco, lavender, and dried herbs. Elegant yet tense tannins make this wine very ageable. The finish stays quite fresh with notes of green olive and leafy mint. The oak is very well integrated and provides framing for a wine that delivers many dark fruit tones. This wine should be cellared and stored for proper ageing; reaching its prime by 2030.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker