

SCULPTERRA 2011 CABERNET FRANC

WINERY & SCULPTURE GARDEN



THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 100% Cabernet Franc

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard & Block: Frankel Family Estates, Lago de Los Patos

Finished Alcohol: 15.2%

Residual Sugar(G/F): 0.05 g/100ml

Total Acid: .64 g/100ml

pH: 3.85

Bottling Date: August 22, 2013

Release Date: December 1, 2014

Total Production: 161 Cases

THE VINEYARD

Sculpterra's 2011 Cabernet Franc is 100% varietal and grown on the estate vineyard, in the Lago De Los Patos Block. This small 1.5-acre vineyard is the perfect site to mature this late ripening varietal. Soils are a mix of clay to loam composition with a lot of rocky outcroppings and well-drained slopes. The vines are 8 years old, showing strong berry uniformity and sweet fruit taste. They are trellised on a Vertical Shoot Positioning system and spur trained on permanent cordons. Usual yields range from 2 to 4 tons per acre depending on the growing season. The cold weather of 2011 did not affect the vineyard because Cabernet Franc buds out so late. We hand harvested on October 2nd 2013 when the fruit reached peak ripeness, 26.2 degrees brix.

THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was processed a half ton at a time through our small crusher/de-stemmer. Fermentation took place in both macro bins and new 300L Bulgarian Barrels. This unique barrel fermentation created a toasted flavor with dark color extraction and a rich taste. Right from the start of fermentation, we knew we had a winner! Terrific fresh aromas of plum, cherry, fig, and even roasted almonds arose from the fermentation each day. The wine was pressed off, and settled in a stainless tank for 2 full days before racking into oak barrels for long-term aging. We aged it for a full 22 months in oak before bottling.

THE TASTE

Our 2011 Cabernet Franc is bold with peppery spice and layered with dark fruit tones. It's hard to describe the balance and elegance of this Cabernet Franc...it's so distinctive! It's dusty dry and firm with puckering acidity and nice tannins. Below that is a fabulous core of blackberry and black cherry, with just the right amount of minerality. Beautifully balanced, it will develop slowly.

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker