

HÉROE

2022 PRIMITIVO
EL PASO DE ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

THE VINEYARD

2022 was a historic vintage for Paso Robles for many reasons. Severe heat pushed the harvest almost a full month early, and then early fall rains showed up, interrupting the picking! We meet the challenges of 2022 head-on, and this wine is a direct result of our hard work, quick action, and flexibility to be open-minded and creative. The grapes are grown in two vineyards: The Frankel Family Estate and Camp-8 Road. The blend of the vineyards creates "the best of both worlds," where two mesoclimates are combined, producing a wine with sophistication, balance, and power. These vineyards are hand-worked and manicured. We harvested early, bringing all three grapes in in early September 2022.

THE WINEMAKING

All fruit was destemmed, fermented, and barreled at Sculpterra Winery. The wine is a blend of 92% Primitivo and 8% Cabernet Franc. Frankel Vineyard's Cabernet Franc adds a fantastic taste of jalapeno pepper and herbal spices and frames the wine with hefty tannins. In total, this blend is made of three lots, two Primitivo wines and one Cabernet Franc wine. We fermented each lot as separate wines; a unique yeast and barrel program was implemented for each one making the resulting blend complex and balanced. Primitivo was taken from the Frankel Family Estate, and the other from Camp 8 Road Vineyards in Creston, CA. The Frankel Vineyard lot is all new oak and offers HUGE notes of vanilla, chocolate, and BBQ accents. Camp 8 Road Primitivo aged in 500L neutral barrels shows much more vineyard aromas of cherry and hints of green olive, sagebrush, and cherry pie. I elected to bottle this wine young after a total of 10 months in the barrel.

THE TASTE

2022 Héroe Primitivo is an incredible wine offering a ripe red fruit taste, toasted oak, and a generous mouthfeel on the finish. The nose offers candied plums and cherry cola, but more potent notes of cedar, smoke, and all-spice come in as well. The palate is enhanced with cherries and candied red apple aromas. The bouquets show flavors of marshmallow and salty dark chocolate. I love the supple tannic grip that leads to crisp fruit and ample acid. This wine is a great partner with roasted lamb and or a classic American hamburger with all the fixings. Well-built and layered with black-fruit flavors, this massive balanced wine offers blueberries and black-pepper flavors. The wine tastes amazing young but will cellar well and only improve with age.

THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 92% Primitivo, 8% Cabernet Franc
Appellation: Paso Robles
Vineyard: Frankel Family Estate
pH: 3.55
TA: 0.63
RS: 0.05
ALC: 15.6%
Total Production: 645 cases (750ml Bottles)
Bottling Date: August 17, 2023



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