



THE VINEYARD

2019 was an exciting vintage for Sculpterra Winery, as this 2019 “Reserve” Zinfandel was our first year working with this remarkable little vineyard. These west side Paso Robles vines are located off Nacimiento Lake Road just outside the city limits. The vineyard is dry-farmed (no irrigation applied) and each vine is head-trained. The vines only grow about 2 feet tall and bare around 6-8 clusters per vine. The crop is limited to a minuscule ½ ton per acre. The soils are packed with limestone as well as rocky, gravely areas. Again, this vineyard solely relies on rain for irrigation and typically the harvest comes early as the vines ripen the grapes by early September. Also, the vines are planted on huge sloped hillsides, making any vineyard operation a true challenge. It took a crew of 10 people, harvesting for 6 hours just to pick 3 tons total.

THE WINEMAKING

The fruit was processed during an early Sunday morning in September, and in fact this was the first wine to be made in the 2019 vintage. The fruit came in perfectly ripe, 26.5 Brix, and had ample acid and a very low pH. We cold soaked the destemmed berries for 2 full days. I selected yeast Premium-Zinfandel for fermentation, I love this yeast for its ability to enhance varietal characteristics and increase the wine's strong aromas and bouquets. We pressed the skins with our small ½ ton basket press, followed by 2 days settling in a stainless tank and finally racking down in once used 500L American barrels. I loved barrel tasting this wine each month, it developed perfectly! My bottling desire was to “capture” the amazing fruit at a young tasting time frame, but also I wanted the barrels to lend to the wine subtle smoke, cedar and vanilla notes. We bottled the wine in December 2020, giving the wine a total of 14 months of barrel age.

THE FACTS

Varietal Composition: 89% Zinfandel
& 11% Petite Sirah

Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard: Jardine Nut Farms &
Frankel Family Estate

Finished Alcohol: 15.7%

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

Total Acid: 0.70 g/100ml

pH: 3.52

Bottling Date: December 9, 2020

Release Date: April 1, 2021

Total Production: 210 Cases

THE TASTE

This wine is truly remarkable and one of a kind. Again, for me this was so exciting from start to finish, as this vintage was our first time making wine from this amazing little west-side Paso Robles vineyard. Let's start with the color, it's so dark, especially for a Zinfandel, the hue is almost black and it coats the glass with each swirl. The nose is fantastic, loaded with dark plum, and robust smells of blackberry and raisin. By no means is this wine over ripe, on the contrary it is balanced with front, mid, and back palate textures. There's a hefty amount of baking spice bouquets and the mouthfeel is just a wonderful experience to behold. This wine is undoubtedly an age-able candidate, I'd give it a good ten years before it's reaching its peak. Don't let that stop you, drink it now and hold on for a wild ride!

-Paul Frankel, Winemaker