

NINER

WINE ESTATES

2021

CABERNET FRANC

Heart Hill Vineyard & Bootjack Ranch, Paso Robles

WINEMAKER

Patrick Muran

CLONE

327, 12, 4

ROOTSTOCK

1103P, 101-14

HARVEST DATES

September 14th -
September 22nd

AVERAGE BRIX

23.6°

AVERAGE YIELD

2 Tons/Acre

pH / TA

3.7/6.0 g/L

ALCOHOL

13.7%

VINEYARD

84% Heart Hill Vineyard,
16% Bootjack Ranch

BLEND

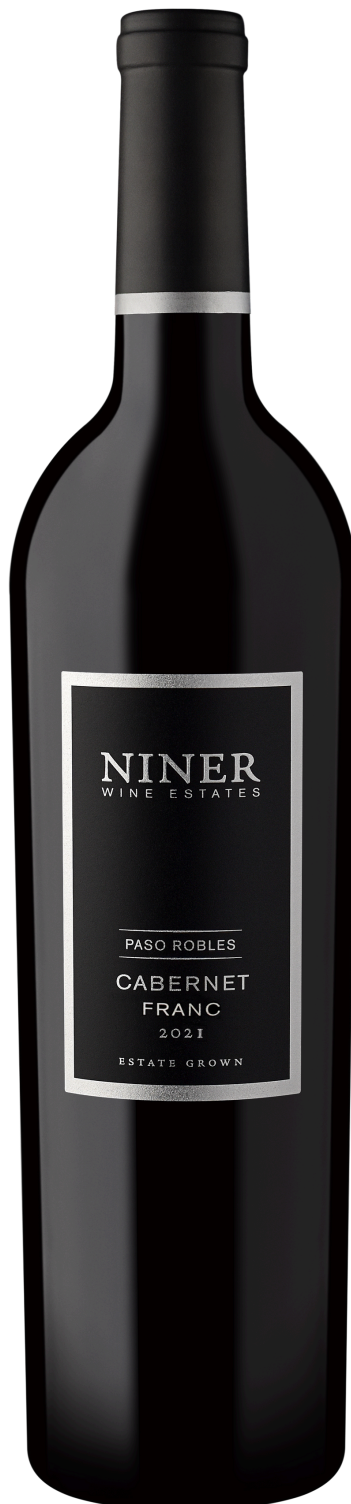
100% Cabernet Franc

COOPERAGE

48% new French oak

BARREL AGING

22 months



VINEYARD

The 2021 vintage is a benchmark for a dry and cool vintage in Paso Robles. The vintage started with a dry winter and a cool spring resulting in restrained canopy growth, a slightly lower-than-average fruit set and small berries. Thankfully, the weather was exceptional the rest of the growing season with moderate temperatures allowing for slow, even ripening and the flexibility to pick at just the right time during harvest. 2021 wines are wonderfully complex and should age gracefully. The majority of the fruit for this wine came from one block at Heart Hill Vineyard, which is typically designated for Fog Catcher. We harvested this block, along with two others over the course of one week in September.

WINEMAKING

We love Cabernet Franc for its bright red fruit, herbaceous notes and robust tannins. Our goal during the winemaking process was to enhance these inherent qualities, rather than overshadow them. After hand-harvesting and destemming the grapes we gravity-fed them into stainless steel tanks for fermentation. We gently pressed the juice off the skins to avoid over-extraction. The wine aged for 12 months in new French oak barrels before being transferred to neutral oak to age for an additional 10 months. The lighter oak influence paired with a light touch in the winery resulted in a pure expression of Cabernet Franc. This wine is medium-bodied, plush and vibrant, with notes of cranberry, raspberry and brushy herbs complemented with elegant tannins.