

## 2020 ISOSCELES

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The core of our winemaking philosophy, and the iconic wine that put JUSTIN on the map

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**Varietal Composition:**

88% Cabernet Sauvignon,  
6% Cabernet Franc,  
6% Merlot

**Appellation:**

Paso Robles

**Bottling Data:**

pH: 3.73

Total Acidity: 0.65g/100mL

Alcohol: 15.0% by volume

### Philosophy

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In 1987, we made our first vintage of a wine styled after the famous First Growth producers of Bordeaux, created with the same uncompromising care as the *Grands Vins* of those venerable chateaux. For more than 30 vintages, ISOSCELES has been our flagship wine and quality benchmark for this style of wine here on the Central Coast of California. A blend based on Cabernet Sauvignon and supported by Cabernet Franc and Merlot, the 2020 ISOSCELES shows why Paso Robles is such a great place to grow these varieties. Full-bodied, with ripe black fruit and complex baking spice, it's ready to drink right out of the gate, but make sure to save a few bottles as it continues to evolve after some time in the cellar.

### Vintage Notes

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2020 started with a dry, cool winter with a normal budbreak around the end of March. Spring temperatures fluctuated between cool and warm weather, with flowering progressing well for all varieties. Our first hot weather came in late May, a few weeks earlier than normal, and things continued to fluctuate until late July when veraison occurred. Intense heat began in late July, leading to the warmest August and early September that we've seen in years, requiring the diligent assessment of canopy health to protect the fruit. Once we got into September, the temperatures moderated a bit, allowing us to pick each parcel of merlot, cabernet franc, and finally cabernet sauvignon for this wine from mid-September through October as each block achieved perfect ripeness and maturity.

### Vinification

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**Fermentation:** Stainless steel open- and closed-top tanks with twice-daily pump-overs

**Maturation:** Barrel-aged for 20 months in 100% new French oak

### Tasting Notes by Jason Santos - JUSTIN Winery Sommelier

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**Appearance:** Bright with a dark purple/black core and a lighter ruby purple rim showing slow-forming, moderately stained tears on the glass.

**Aroma:** Attractively aromatic and complex with ripe black and red cherry, black currant, new book leather, cedar, tobacco, vanilla bean, licorice, and oak.

**Palate:** Full-bodied on the palate with ripe complex cherry, cassis, and a subtle red berry fruit on entry, with vanilla and licorice baking spice leading into the midpalate, which shows complex savory notes of cedar, tobacco leaf, and leather. The very long, complex, and continually changing finish is a progression of sustained ripe cherry fruit accented by baking spice and oak notes, with smooth chewy tannins and balanced acidity, adding depth and freshness. The 2020 ISOSCELES is an exceptional wine that provides both an intensity and balance that allows it to hold its own when paired with deeply flavored dishes like a slow-cooked beef short rib braise, filet mignon, or venison steak.