

Martinelli Road **CHARDONNAY**

h& Martinelli Road Chardonnay Vineyard is one of the coolest vineyard sites in the Russian River Valley. The vineyard is located directly below the steep Jackass Zinfandel Vineyard on the original Martinelli family homestead ranch. The Martinelli family has lived in this same area in Forestville since 1895, hence the name of the road. Generations ago, families and friends would gather on this very ground for weekend long picnics and festivities, with Bing Martinelli playing his violin as people danced and drank vino. Third generation farmer, Lee Martinelli Sr., planted the Martinelli Road Chardonnay, which is a selection of Dejon clones, in 1995, continuing the proud family legacy of agriculture. The Chardonnay grapes are picked between 24 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. The fruit is hand selected at harvest time by Lee Martinelli Sr., who tastes them and chooses when to pick according to the developed concentration of flavors in the berries. The wine is 100% barrel fermented with wild yeast, resting in 85% new French oak for 10 months before bottling. This vino is unfinned, unfiltered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment. We recommend decanting or allowing the bottle to sit upright in a cool place prior to serving.

Wine Maker: Helen Turley Assistant Wine Maker: Bryan Kvamme

Martinelli Road Chardonnay in the Press

1996 Vintage ~ 92 pts. Robert Parker, Jr.

1997 Vintage ~ 93pts. Robert Parker, Jr. ~ 93 pts. Stephen Tanzer

1998 Vintage ~ 93 pts. Robert Parker, Jr.

1999 Vintage ~ 91pts. Robert Parker, Jr. ~ 91 pts. Stephen Tanzer

2000 Vintage ~ 90 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr. ~ 92 pts. Stephen Tanzer

2001 Vintage ~ 91 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr. ~ 91 pts. Stephen Tanzer ~ 90 pts. Wine Spectator

2002 Vintage ~ 93 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr. ~ 92 pts. Wine Spectator

“Readers looking for a smoky, liquid minerality white offering notes of citrus and linseed oil as well as tangerines should check out the full-bodied, complex, full-throttle 2002 Chardonnay Martinelli Road.

A gravelly underbelly is very French-like.”... 93 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr.

“Yeasty bread dough aromas lead to a rich, creamy-textured wine, with scents of anise, ripe fig, honeysuckle and spice. Broad and expansive, with a long, intricate aftertaste that echoes butterscotch.”

92 pts. James Laube

2003 Vintage ~ 94 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr.

... "Another stunning 2003 Chardonnay that had just been bottled is the 2003 Chardonnay Martinelli Road Vineyard. Orange rind, apple crisp and honeyed citrus all jump from the glass of this wine. In the mouth, more tropical fruit comes forward in terms of oranges, pineapples, and almost guava-like notes. This full-bodied, rich wine is intense, as the low yields of this year for the Martinelli Vineyards are reflected in the extra level of concentration." 94 pts. Robert M. Parker, Jr.