



**Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2011**

**Vineyard Character**

The year was 1899 when Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli planted three acres of Zinfandel in the Russian River Valley. The old vineyard is now known as Jackass Hill and remains the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County. Nearly one century later Giuseppe and Luisa's grandson, Lee Martinelli Sr., followed in their footsteps by planting a Zinfandel vineyard. He grafted bud wood from the centurion vines onto devigorating rootstocks and planted them one meter by two meters apart, equating to about 2,000 vines per acre, on a rocky knoll above the Martinelli Winery.

**Growing Year**

This was one of the coolest growing years on record in the last 30 years, especially during the month of June. Due to the cool weather, harvest was later than usual. These wines will age well, and show more structure due to the increased acidity from the cooler growing season.

**Wine Statistics**

The "Giuseppe & Luisa" vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The grapes are thinned down to between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character and are fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred to oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 33% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months.

Case Production: 615

**Tasting Notes**

The 2011 Giuseppe and Luisa Zinfandel has intense aromas of blackberry liquor, plum, and orange rind. The flavors are deep, and include spicy black cherry, plum, molasses, and vanilla, with a zesty acidity.

**Historical Acclaim**

2011 Vintage

- 94 points Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate
- 93 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2010 Vintage

- 91 points. Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 92 points. Tim Fish - The Wine Spectator

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green