



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Chico's Hill Syrah
Russian River Valley
2011

Vineyard Character

The Chico's Hill vineyard is only one acre large. It has a great soil profile which consists of fractured rock. Fractured rock makes great growing conditions because the rock warms the earth by the early morning sun, stimulating vine growth. In addition, rain water penetrates the soil depth easily and is a very well drained ground. Chico's Hill is an easterly facing slope with great sun exposure and good air flow. The landscape is long and narrow, approximately a 45 degree slope, and is actually shaped like a horse's nose. The rows are oriented in a north-south direction to equalize sunlight exposure on both sides of the canopy morning and afternoon. For vine training we installed a vertical trellis system with fruit wire sitting 22 inches above ground level, encouraging consistent ripening of the grape clusters. The vineyard consists solely of clone 877.

The grapes are picked between 25 and 27 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, being fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 90% new French oak on its gross lees for one year. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 24

Tasting Notes

The 2011 Chico's Hill Syrah has aromas of licorice, flint, black cherry, smoke, violets and forest floor. The palate of firm black fruits will reward a few years of patience. Decant 60 – 90 minutes. Drink 2016 – 2026.

Historical Acclaim

2011 Vintage

- 93 points Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

2010 Vintage

- 90+ points Robert M. Parker, Jr., The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green