



Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2012

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 de-vigorating 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 a fairly mild year, similar to 2007 and 2009. The harvest looked like it was going to be early because of the early heat and bud break, but this ended up being a long, drawn out season with consistent growing temperatures. The wines have good tannins, structure, and a nice acid balance, due to the long growing season.

Wine Statistics

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. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 503

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel has a superbly ripe nose of blackberry, bright cherry bramble, plum, orange and mint. The palate is poised and centered red raspberry, cassis, golden currants and plum. Drink 2014 – 2022.

Historical Acclaim

2012 Vintage

- 93 points Robert M Parker, Jr. The Wine Advocate
- 92 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

2011 Vintage

- 94 points Robert M Parker, Jr. The Wine Advocate
- 92 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 92 points Tim Fish - The Wine Spectator

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green