



## **Jackass Vineyard Zinfandel Russian River Valley 2012**

### **Vineyard Character**

Jackass Vineyard was planted in the late 1800's in the splendid Russian River Valley. This eight acre vineyard thrives on a steep rolling hillside which surrounds the west side of the Jackass Hill Vineyard. The old head pruned vines are farmed much the same way as they were a century ago; without the use of trellising, irrigation, or pesticides. The vines produce a large crop load for being 100 years old, about three tons per acre, and the fruit is thinned to insure more concentrated flavor in the berries.

### **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**

After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation, with indigenous yeast, to generate skin contact and extract fruit character. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It is then allowed to rest and mature in 33% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months before bottling. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 254

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2012 Jackass Vineyard Zinfandel shows aromas of espresso, licorice, and red raspberry with hints of meat and peppercorn. Plenty of depth on the palate with plum, cherry, and sweet currant notes. It will benefit from an hour decant.

Drink 2014 – 2022.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### **2012 Vintage**

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

#### **2011 Vintage**

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green