



Jackass Hill Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2009

Vineyard Character

This rugged vineyard is referred to by the Martinelli family as "Jackass Hill", because only a jackass would farm a hill that steep. Jackass Hill is the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County. Lee Sr. is the third generation Martinelli farmer to care-take the original family homestead land; farming the ancient vineyard much as his grandfather Giuseppe had one hundred years before, without irrigation, pesticides, or trellising.

Wine Statistics

Once picked, the grape bunches are de-stemmed and the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and enhance fruit character. The juice is fermented with indigenous yeast. The wine is then transferred into small oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. The grapes are 100% barrel fermented with wild yeast, resting in 35% new French oak on its gross lees for 10 months.

Case Production: 65

Tasting Notes

The rich 2009 Jackass Hill Zinfandel bursts forth with blackberry, cherry-cola, cocoa and spicy candied licorice flavors and aromas of herbs and lavender.

Historical Acclaim

2005 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Helen Turley