



**Lolita Ranch Chardonnay**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2011**

**Vineyard Character**

Fourth generation farmer, Lee Martinelli Jr., and his wife Pamela acquired this very steep piece of property from Bob and Lolita Young in 1999. The Ranch is named for Bob's late wife, Lolita. This site is unique with its south-eastern facing slopes that rival our Jackass Hill in steepness. The Chardonnay vines were planted in 2001 with clones 17 and 76. The vines are trained on a vertical trellis system and are tightly spaced at 2,000 plants per acre. The grapevines are thinned to bear between 2 and 3 pounds of fruit per vine, with the clusters hanging 24 inches above the ground.

**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 grapes are picked around 25 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. The wine is fermented with wild yeast and rests in 50% new French oak (mostly Francois Freres Vosges oak barrels) on its gross lees for 10 months before bottling. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, and is un-fined and un-filtered, clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 156

**Tasting Notes**

The 2011 Lolita Chardonnay has aromas of toasty coconut, buttered popcorn, and casaba melon. The palate is delicate on entry with dry stone fruit, citrus, grapefruit, and honeydew melon.

**Historical Acclaim**

**2011 Vintage**

- 91 points. Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 92 points. Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 92 points. Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

**2010 Vintage**

- 92 points. Antonio Galloni The Wine Advocate
- 92 points. Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green