



Lolita Ranch Syrah
Russian River Valley
2011

Vineyard Character

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville. Giuseppe & Luisa had purchased the steep, forested landscape in the late 1800's and then later sold this particular section to a neighbor. On this site, circa 1900, there once stood a small country schoolhouse where some of the Martinelli family attended at the turn of the century. Eventually the ranch was passed on to Bob and Lolita Young, who ran a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle on the land for many years. Third generation farmer, Lee Martinelli Jr., and his wife Pamela acquired the property in 1999, returning it back to the Martinelli estate and to the family's continuing century-long legacy of viticulture. The vineyard was planted in 2001.

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 between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After being picked the fruit undergoes a five day cold soak, for the early extraction of flavors and color, followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. The grapes in the fermentation tank are pressed and the wine is barreled down un-racked while it is still fermenting, allowing it to better marry with the new French oak barrels. The wine completes the sugar and the malolactic fermentations in barrel and then ages on its gross lees in 80% new French oak for one year. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 66

Tasting Notes

Shows a sexy nose of peppercorn, currants, violets, and wet gravel. The palate is youthfully lean with mineral, bright raspberry, and saturated blueberry flavors.

Historical Acclaim

2010 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green