



## **Lolita Ranch Pinot Noir**

### **Russian River Valley**

### **2012**

#### **Vineyard Character**

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville. Giuseppe & Luisa Martinelli had purchased the steep, forested landscape in the late 1800's and then later sold this particular section to a neighbor. Eventually it passed on to Bob and Lolita Young, who ran a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle on the land for many years. 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. Lee Jr. planted the steep hillside in 2001 with four different grape varieties; Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel.

#### **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 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 70% new French oak for one year. Our Pinot Noirs usually do not require racking or aeration during aging. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 247

#### **Tasting Notes**

The 2012 Lolita Ranch Pinot Noir has a nose of spice box, red cherry and watermelon. The palate entry is bright cranberry, red currant and strawberry finishing solidly with luscious red berries and fig.

#### **Historical Acclaim**

##### **2012 Vintage**

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

##### **2011 Vintage**

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green