



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Jackass Hill Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2012

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.

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

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 wine is then transferred into 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. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 48

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Jackass Hill Zinfandel shows a beautiful perfumed nose of black fruits, cloves and blueberry notes. The palate is incredibly focused black raspberry and strawberry with silky nuances of spicy fig.

Historical Acclaim

2012 Vintage

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

2011 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: Erin Green