



Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2012

Vineyard Character

The Vellutini Ranch is bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, sharing the same Franciscan soil type. Lee and Carolyn Martinelli hired their teenaged grandson, Anthony Britton, Jr., to help plant the steep slope with Zinfandel in 1999. This 7 acre parcel of Zinfandel is planted with bud wood from the Martinelli family's centurion grapevines from the Jackass Hill and Jackass Vineyard.

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 picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character and are fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred to oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 35% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 358

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel has aromas of mocha, cherry pie and chocolate with notes of boysenberry, graphite and apricot. The palate offers floral boysenberry, chocolate, leather, and carob with firm tannins and a full mouth feel.

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

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green