



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Zio Tony Ranch Chardonnay
Russian River Valley
2012

Vineyard Character

The Zio Tony Ranch is named after Lee Sr.'s uncle Tony who was the first in the Bondi family to be born on American soil. Zio Tony, *Zio* meaning 'uncle' in Italian and pronounced 'tseo', was a very charismatic man with a big booming voice whom loved a good time. When Zio Tony passed away in 1971 his nephew, Lee Martinelli, Sr., took over management of the estate. The love of his family's heritage land was too great for Lee to sell the property and in one short season he went from High School teacher to Apple Farmer. Eventually this apple orchard was converted to vineyards, as the market for apples grew unbearably soft. The vines are planted on rolling hills made up of Gold Ridge soil, with Clones consisting of 95, 76, and 548.

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.

Wine Statistics

This small vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground and the grapes are thinned down to only 3 pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. The wine is fermented with wild yeast in 50% new French oak barrels, where it rests on its gross lees for ten months. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, and is un-fined and un-filtered, clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 413

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Zio Tony Chardonnay has a pungent nose of peaches, wild flowers, candied pear, and brown sugar. Lush texture loaded with stone fruits and lemon zest, with back notes of caramel apple and hints of tropical fruits.

Historical Acclaim

2012 Vintage

- 95 points Robert M Parker Jr. The Wine Advocate
- 94 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2011 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green