



**Chico's Hill Syrah**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2012**

### **Vineyard Character**

Chico's Hill is a one acre vineyard on an easterly facing slope. It has a great soil profile which is predominantly fractured rock. Fractured rock makes for great growing conditions because the rock warms the earth by the early morning sun, stimulating vine growth, and in addition, rain water penetrates the soil depth easily and also drains off easily. The landscape is long and narrow, approximately a 45 degree slope, and is actually shaped like a horse's nose. The rows are oriented in a north-south direction to equalize sunlight exposure on both sides of the canopy morning and afternoon. For vine training we installed a vertical trellis system with fruit wire sitting 22 inches above ground level, encouraging consistent ripening of the grape clusters. The vineyard consists solely of clone 877.

### **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**

The grapes are picked between 25 and 27 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, fermenting with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 90% new French oak on its gross lees for one year. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 51

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2012 Chico's Hill Syrah has aromas of blackberries, mint, beef jerky, and kirsch. The palate is exotic and lush with pomegranate, blackberry, smoked meats, and hints of dusty chocolate.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### 2012 Vintage

- 93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 92 points Robert M Parker Jr, The Wine Advocate

#### 2011 Vintage

- 93 points Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green