



Vellutini Ranch Syrah
Russian River Valley
2012

Vineyard Character

This Syrah vineyard is two acres in size, planted in 2000 with clone 470. It sits on the western edge of the Russian River Valley on a north east slope, which receives the first ray of early morning sunshine. The Vellutini Ranch vineyards are bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, sharing the same Franciscan soil type.

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 Vellutini Ranch vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The grapes are thinned down to between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix. 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 90% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 117

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Vellutini Ranch Syrah has aromas of blackberry, earth, and black pepper. The palate shows flavors of mocha, dark currant, and dusty Mexican Chocolate.

Historical Acclaim

2012 Vintage

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

2011 Vintage

- 92(+?) points Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green