



Zio Tony Ranch “Grace Nicole” Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
2013

Vineyard Character

The Zio Tony Ranch was originally an apple orchard owned by Lee Martinelli Sr.’s Uncle Tony Bondi. In keeping with the family heritage, a large grove of the old thick-trunked Gravenstein apple trees have been preserved on the property. Surrounding this acreage of ancient fruit bearing trees Lee Martinelli Sr. planted Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which are varietals that glorify in this particular climate’s warm/cool temperatures. The vines are planted on rolling hills with clones 777, 115, 828, Calera, and Quail Hill.

Growing Year

The 2013 growing year was the second dry year in a row for us. We had an especially dry spring and it warmed up early, so the vines got an early jump on the season. Bloom came along in early May and the temperatures were perfect for berry pollination. The clusters ended up setting an abundance of berries. We had to do quite a bit of cluster thinning to maintain our desired crop levels and to get some sunlight and air movement into the canopy. Harvest came early as well. Fortunately, we had cooler temps about midway through, which slowed down picking and allowed us to catch up on things - including sleep! Harvest was complete after 7-8 weeks.

Wine Statistics

The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 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, fermented 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 70% new French oak on its gross lees for 10 months. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 523

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Zio Tony Ranch Pinot Noir has a darker color, with plummy fruits, violets, and a touch of earthiness on the nose. The palate opens up nicely to blue fruits and hints of cola.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

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

2012 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green