



**MARTINELLI**  
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Jackass Hill Zinfandel**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2013**

**Vineyard Character**

This rugged vineyard is referred to by the Martinelli family as "Jackass Hill", because only a jackass would farm a hill that steep. Jackass Hill is the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County. Lee Sr. is the third generation Martinelli farmer to care-take the original family homestead land; farming the ancient vineyard much as his grandfather Giuseppe had one hundred years before, without irrigation, pesticides, or trellising.

**Growing Year**

The 2013 growing year was the second dry year in a row for Sonoma County. It was an especially dry spring and 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**

Once picked, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, fermenting 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, and 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: 56

**Tasting Notes**

The 2013 Jackass Hill Zinfandel has aromas of Kirsch Liqueur, Crème de Cassis and ripe blueberry. The palate is complex with a velvet-like structure, and flavors of Mission figs, red cherry, Earl Grey tea, and a touch of citrus peel.

**Historical Acclaim**

2012 Vintage

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green