



Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel

Russian River Valley

2013

Vineyard Character

The Vellutini Ranch is bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, and was planted with bud wood from both of these vineyards. This seven acre vineyard was planted in 1999.

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: 343

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel shows aromas of white peach, blueberries and dusty cocoa. The palate is clean and supple with silky raspberry coulis, golden stone fruit and a touch of minerality.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

- 91 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 90 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