



MARTINELLI  
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Zio Tony Ranch Chardonnay**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2013**

### **Vineyard Character**

The Zio Tony Ranch is named after Lee Sr.'s uncle Tony who was the first in the Bondi family to be born on American soil. Zio Tony, *Zio* meaning 'uncle' in Italian and pronounced 'tseo', was a very charismatic man with a big booming voice whom loved a good time. When Zio Tony passed away in 1971 his nephew, Lee Martinelli, Sr., took over management of the estate. The love of his family's heritage land was too great for Lee to sell the property and in one short season he went from High School teacher to Apple Farmer. Eventually this apple orchard was converted to vineyards, as the market for apples grew unbearably soft. The vines are planted on rolling hills made up of Gold Ridge soil, with Clones consisting of 95, 76, and 548.

### **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**

This small vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground and the grapes are thinned down to only 3 pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. The wine is fermented with wild yeast in 50% new French oak barrels, where it rests on its gross lees for ten months. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, and is un-fined and un-filtered, clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 271

### **Tasting Notes**

The 2013 Zio Tony Ranch Chardonnay shows aromas of crisp green apple, citrus, nutmeg and white flowers. The palate has a bracing acidity and long finish with flavors of lemon curd, lime zest, and yellow stone fruits.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### 2013 Vintage

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

#### 2012 Vintage

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green