



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Chico's Hill Syrah
Russian River Valley
2013**

Vineyard Character

Chico's Hill is a one acre vineyard on an easterly facing slope. It has a great soil profile which is predominantly fractured rock. Fractured rock makes for great growing conditions because the rock warms the earth by the early morning sun, stimulating vine growth, and in addition, rain water penetrates the soil depth easily and drains off. The landscape is long and narrow, approximately a 45 degree slope, and is shaped like a horse's nose. The rows are oriented in a north-south direction to equalize sunlight exposure on both sides of the canopy morning and afternoon. For vine training we installed a vertical trellis system with fruit wire sitting 22 inches above ground level, encouraging consistent ripening of the grape clusters. The vineyard consists solely of clone 877.

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 27 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, fermenting 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 65% new French oak on its gross lees for fifteen months. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 44

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Chico's Hill Syrah shows a gorgeous nose of roasted Italian espresso coffee, carbon, truffle and black pepper, with fresh, firm black fruits, intense currants and berries, mushrooms, Swiss dark chocolate, and clove spice on the palate. The tannins are very fine but the structure is there for long-term aging if desired.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

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

2012 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green