



Zio Tony Ranch “Grace Nicole” Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
2014

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 growing year in 2014 was the third dry year in a row and was full of unforeseen challenges provided by Mother Nature. You would think the ongoing drought, excessive heat from March thru June, and hail in early April would have brought down the quality of this vintage. Thankfully this was not the case! Even though the harvest was very early, the small berry sizes and healthy yields have produced very well balanced wines; they are not over-bearing in tannin or structure, and are a pleasure to drink.

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: 709

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Zio Tony Ranch Pinot Noir is weighty with layered flavors of black plum, red apple skins and sweet coffee, with a touch of earthiness that helps keep this pinot grounded and balanced. Aromas include molasses, raspberry and cloves.

Historical Acclaim

2014 Vintage

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

2013 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green