



Martinelli Road Chardonnay

Russian River Valley

2013

Vineyard Character

The Martinelli Road Chardonnay Vineyard is one of the coolest vineyard sites in the Russian River Valley and is one of the last vineyards to be picked. Lee Martinelli Sr. planted this vineyard in 1989 using clone 95. The vineyard is located directly below the steep Jackass Hill zinfandel vineyard on the original Martinelli family homestead ranch.

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

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. These grapes are gently pressed and barrel fermented with wild yeast. After malolactic fermentation the wine is sur lie aged in 50% new French oak for 10 months before bottling. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 327

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Martinelli Road Chardonnay has a beautiful nose of lemon blossom, green apple, and allspice. The palate is lush and rich with marmalade, green apple and tropical notes. This wine has great acidity and freshness and the finish is clean, focused, and very pure.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

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

2012 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green