



MARTINELLI  
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Jackass Hill Zinfandel**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2014**

**Vineyard Character**

This rugged vineyard is referred to by the Martinelli family as "Jackass Hill", because only a jackass would farm a hill that steep. Jackass Hill is the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County. Lee Sr. is the third generation Martinelli farmer to care-take the original family homestead land; farming the ancient vineyard much as his grandfather Giuseppe had one hundred years before, without irrigation, pesticides, or trellising.

**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 size and healthy yields have produced very well balanced wines; they are not over-bearing in tannin or structure, and are a pleasure to drink.

**Production Notes**

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. Once picked, whole berries undergo a long, cool fermentation with wild yeast to generate skin contact and expose fruit character. The wine is pressed off with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. Once dry, the wine goes through malolactic fermentation from wild ML bacteria. After malolactic fermentation the wine is *sur lie* aged in 35% new French oak on 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: 63

**Tasting Notes**

The 2014 Jackass Hill Zinfandel is bursting with fragrance and complexity with aromas of cassis, caramelized figs, forest bark and cherries. This wine is pure velvet on the palate with cassis, currants, and fresh crushed berries.

**Historical Acclaim**

2014 Vintage

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green