



**Lolita Ranch Zinfandel**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2014**

**Vineyard Character**

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville. The property once adjoined the original Martinelli Homestead Ranch, belonging to Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli. Giuseppe and Luisa had purchased the steep, forested landscape in the late 1800's and then later sold this particular section to a neighbor. Eventually it passed on to Bob and Lolita Young, who ran a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle on the land for many years. Lee Martinelli Jr. and his wife Pamela acquired the property in 1999, returning it back to the Martinelli estate and to the family's continuing century-long legacy of viticulture. Lee Jr. planted the steep hillside in 2001 with four different grape varieties; Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel.

**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: 216

**Tasting Notes**

The 2014 Lolita Ranch Zinfandel has aromas of violets, raspberry, carob and licorice notes. The palate is loaded with fresh blueberries and very dark luscious black fruits in the background.

**Historical Acclaim**

2014 Vintage

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

2013 Vintage

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green