



Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2014

Vineyard Character

The Vellutini Ranch is bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, and was planted with bud wood from both of these vineyards. This seven acre vineyard was planted in 1999.

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: 182

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel has cocoa, ripe blueberries and hints of straw on the nose. The palate is silky and round with flavors of milk chocolate, blackberry jam, and grilled strawberries.

Historical Acclaim

2014 Vintage

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

2013 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green