



MARTINELLI  
WINERY & VINEYARDS

**Vellutini Ranch Syrah**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2014**

**Vineyard Character**

This Syrah vineyard is two acres in size, planted in 2000 with clone 470. It sits on the western edge of the Russian River Valley on a north east slope, which receives the first ray of early morning sunshine. The Vellutini Ranch vineyards are bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, sharing the same Franciscan soil type.

**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.

**Wine Statistics**

The Vellutini Ranch vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The grapes are thinned down to between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character and are fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred to oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 65% new French oak on its gross lees for fifteen months. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 60

**Tasting Notes**

The 2014 Vellutini Ranch Syrah nose is lean and bright on entry with carbon, licorice and underbrush. The palate oozes with gorgeous blackberry vitality.

**Historical Acclaim**

2013 Vintage

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