



## **Jackass Vineyard Zinfandel**

### **Russian River Valley**

### **2015**

#### **Vineyard Character**

This eight acre vineyard was planted in the late 1800's and is located just the south of our Jackass Hill Vineyard. These old head pruned vines are farmed much the same way as they were a century ago; without the use of trellising, irrigation, or pesticides.

#### **Growing Year**

The 2015 harvest was the earliest that we have had in a while, starting on August 12th. Even though the previous three years were all very early harvests, 2015 had them all beat. We had a very dry spring with cool weather during bloom (April-May) which caused a long fruit-set period that resulted in some shatter, creating a reduced crop size by 35-50% in some vineyards. The combination of lower yields and early spring bud break meant the ripening period started off early and progressed rapidly. Despite these challenging growing conditions and lower yields, the fruit quality for 2015 was exceptional.

#### **Wine Statistics**

After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation, with indigenous yeast, to generate skin contact and extract fruit character. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It is then allowed to rest and mature in 33% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months before bottling. The grapes, juice, and then wine are minimally handled. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 261

#### **Tasting Notes**

The nose on the 2015 Jackass Vineyard Zinfandel shows tobacco, and densely saturated blue fruits with hints of dusty mint. The palate offers spice box, apricot and concentrated black raspberry

#### **Historical Acclaim**

##### **2014 Vintage**

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

##### **2013 Vintage**

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

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green