Vineyard Character
The Zio Tony Ranch was originally an apple orchard owned by Lee Martinelli Sr.’s Uncle Tony Bondi. In keeping with the family heritage, a large grove of the old thick-trunked Gravenstein apple trees have been preserved on the property. Surrounding this acreage of ancient fruit bearing trees Lee Martinelli Sr. planted Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which are varietals that glorify in this particular climate’s warm/cool temperatures. The vines are planted on rolling hills with clones 777, 115, 828, Calera, and Quail Hill.

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
The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character, fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred into oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 70% new French oak on its gross lees for 10 months. 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: 406

Tasting Notes
The 2015 Zio Tony Ranch Pinot Noir has dense aromas of tobacco and black fruit, cherry and plum. The palate offers well-balanced cherry and red apple with mouth-coating density.

Historical Acclaim
2015 Vintage
- 96 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93+ points The Wine Advocate

2014 Vintage
- 95+ points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 94 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme
Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green