



Lolita Ranch Syrah **Russian River Valley** **2014**

Vineyard Character

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville. Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli had purchased the steep, forested landscape in the late 1800's and then later sold this particular section to a neighbor. Eventually the ranch was passed on to Bob and Lolita Young, who ran a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle on the land for many years. Third generation farmer, 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. The vineyard was planted in 2001.

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

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. After being picked, the fruit undergoes a three to five-day cold soak, to maximize the early extraction of flavors and color. This is followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. After being pressed off the skins, the wine completes the sugar and malolactic fermentations in barrel, and then is *sur lie* aged in 80% new French oak for 16 months. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 89

Tasting Notes

The 2014 Lolita Ranch Syrah engulfs the nose with aromas of black cherry, black currants and cinnamon. Rich black plum, cherry and molasses reside on the palate.

Historical Acclaim

2014 Vintage

- 93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 90 points The Wine Advocate

2013 Vintage

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

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green