



MARTINELLI

ESTABLISHED IN THE 1880'S

Zio Tony Ranch Pinot Noir **Russian River Valley** **2016**

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

Although 2016 received just below average rainfall, it was still considered the last year of our 5-year drought. However, this adequate amount of rain at the appropriate time led to favorable conditions for bloom, which resulted in an even fruit-set and good vine balance. Summer temperatures were generally cooler, which allowed the fruit to ripen more slowly and develop deeper flavors. The weather held steady through harvest allowing us to pick the fruit at optimum maturity levels resulting in wines full of finesse and intensity.

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 50% 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: 488

Tasting Notes

Our 2016 Zio Tony Ranch Pinot Noir has a sweet floral nose with aromas of cassis, boysenberry and red cherry. There is a great richness on the palate with flavors of red cherry, strawberry, and hints of orange peel.

Historical Acclaim

2016 Vintage

- 96 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 94 points The Wine Advocate

2015 Vintage

- 96 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93+ points The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green

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