



MARTINELLI

ESTABLISHED IN THE 1880'S

Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel
Russian River Valley
2016

Vineyard Character

The Vellutini Ranch is bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, and was planted with bud wood from both of these vineyards. This seven acre vineyard was planted in 1999.

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.

Production Notes

Each vineyard block goes through meticulous sample testing and is picked at optimum brix levels to ensure mature, ripe fruit flavors. Once picked, whole berries undergo a long, cool fermentation with wild yeast to generate skin contact and expose fruit character. The wine is pressed off with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. Once dry, the wine goes through malolactic fermentation from wild ML bacteria. After malolactic fermentation the wine is *sur lie* aged in 40% new French oak on for ten months. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 279

Tasting Notes

Our 2016 Vellutini Ranch Zinfandel has sweet cream coffee and strawberry on the nose. The palate is sleek and balanced with cocoa, Bing cherry and raspberry.

Historical Acclaim

2016 Vintage

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

2015 Vintage

- 92 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green