



ZINFANDEL
VELLUTINI RANCH VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
2020



2019 VINTAGE

92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2018 VINTAGE

93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
94 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100%
Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 40% new French Oak,
60% neutral French Oak, 11 months

Case Production: 289

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Franciscan

Rootstock: 420A

Clones: JAH, JAV

GROWING YEAR

2020 will likely go down as one of the most memorable harvests in Martinelli history. The growing season was nearly perfect until mid-August when two nearby wildfires were ignited by a dry lightning storm. At this point in the berries' growth cycle, the skins are softening and developing favors. Because we religiously prioritize the quality of our wines and the integrity of our brand, we made the hard but crucial decision to not make any Pinot Noir from the 2020 vintage. Unlike the other varieties that we grow, Pinot Noir is susceptible to absorbing flavors from its surroundings because it is exceptionally thin skinned. Therefore, we are able to pick up terroir flavor nuances even within the same AVA in this grape. Luckily, we have Chardonnay, Zinfandel and Syrah from the 2020 vintage. Chardonnay is removed from its skins as soon as it enters the winery, so contact with any smoke flavors is extremely minimal. Zinfandel and Syrah both have very tough skins and did not absorb the smoke flavors we tasted in the Pinots. Though we were only able to process half the amount of fruit we do in a normal year, we are grateful for the outstanding wines we were able to make from the 2020 harvest.

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 and is planted to both Zinfandel and Syrah grapes.

TASTING NOTES

The warming and engulfing aromas of raspberry preserves, cedar and maple are present in the nose. Flavors of wild berry pie and sweet anise seed add to the unfolding layers in the palate. The present tannins last in the lengthy finish.