



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Lolita Ranch Pinot Noir
Russian River Valley
2013

Vineyard Character

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville, California. Giuseppe & Luisa Martinelli had purchased the steep, forested landscape in the late 1800's and then later sold this particular section to a neighbor. Eventually it passed on to Bob and Lolita Young, who ran a herd of Angus and Hereford cattle on the land for many years. 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. Lee Jr. planted the steep hillside in 2001 with four different grape varieties; Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel.

Growing Year

The 2013 growing year was the second dry year in a row for Sonoma County. It was an especially dry spring and warmed up early, so the vines got an early jump on the season. Bloom came along in early May and the temperatures were perfect for berry pollination. The clusters ended up setting an abundance of berries. We had to do quite a bit of cluster thinning to maintain our desired crop levels and to get some sunlight and air movement into the canopy. Harvest came early as well. Fortunately, we had cooler temps about midway through, which slowed down picking and allowed us to catch up on things - including sleep! Harvest was complete after 7-8 weeks.

Wine Statistics

The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix to ensure mature ripe fruit flavors. After being picked, the fruit undergoes a five-day cold soak for the early extraction of flavors and color, followed by a wild yeast fermentation that promotes greater character and depth when the wine matures. The grapes in the fermentation tank are pressed and the wine is barreled down un-racked while it is still fermenting, allowing it to "marry" with the new French oak barrels. The wine completes the sugar and the malolactic fermentations in barrel and then ages on its gross lees in 65% new French oak for one year. Our Pinot Noirs usually do not require racking or aeration during aging. The wine is neither heat nor cold stabilized, is un-fined and un-filtered, and is clarified only by racking before bottling.

Case Production: 271

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Lolita Ranch Pinot Noir has a nose of cherry pie, molasses, strawberry, rose and earth. The palate is rich and ripe with bright plum, red cherry and baking spices.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

- 92 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2012 Vintage

- 92 points Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar
- 92 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green