



Lolita Ranch Syrah
Russian River Valley
2013

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 2013 growing year was the second dry year in a row for us. We had an especially dry spring and it 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

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: 111

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Lolita Ranch Syrah has lilac and fresh licorice on the nose with additional aromatics of bacon, roasted meats, and cassis. On the palate there is more red and black licorice, with spicy plum/cherry notes and peppercorns.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

- 94 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate

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Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green