



MARTINELLI
WINERY & VINEYARDS

Vellutini Ranch Syrah
Russian River Valley
2013

Vineyard Character

This Syrah vineyard is two acres in size, planted in 2000 with clone 470. It sits on the western edge of the Russian River Valley on a north east slope, which receives the first ray of early morning sunshine. The Vellutini Ranch vineyards are bordered on the east by Jackass Hill and on the south by Jackass Vineyard, sharing the same Franciscan soil type.

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

The Vellutini Ranch vineyard is trained on a vertical trellis system with the fruit hanging just 24 inches above the ground. The grapes are thinned down to between two and three pounds of fruit per vine. The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character and are fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred to oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 65% new French oak on its gross lees for fifteen months. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 117

Tasting Notes

The 2013 Vellutini Ranch Syrah has a nose of chocolaty blue plum, with notes of conifer and spice box. Black currants, licorice, cherry liqueur, and black pepper weave through the palate.

Historical Acclaim

2013 Vintage

- 95 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 92 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2012 Vintage

- 95 points Robert M Parker Jr., The Wine Advocate
- 92 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous

Winemaker: Bryan Kvamme

Consulting Winemaker: Erin Green