



ZINFANDEL  
JACKASS VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY  
2020



#### 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

This eight-acre vineyard was planted in the early 1880s, which makes it our oldest vineyard. These old, head pruned vines are farmed much the same way they were a century ago, without the use of trellising, irrigation, or pesticides. Common to this area, it has both Goldridge and Franciscan soil types.

#### TASTING NOTES

Encompassing aromas of blackberry, roasted coffee and black tea are found on the nose. The well-balanced acidity perfectly complements the rich weight of the palate. Profound flavors of cherry and blackberry pie in the mouth lead to a crème brûlée finish.

#### 2019 VINTAGE

*97 points Wine Advocate*  
*93 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

#### 2018 VINTAGE

*95 points Wine Advocate*  
*95 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous*

#### 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: 340

#### VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Gold Ridge, Franciscan  
Fractured bed-rock, Clay Loam  
Rootstock: St. George