Lolita Ranch Chardonnay | Russian River Valley 2018

GROWING YEAR

The 2018 season was much calmer than 2017, due to the absence of extra rain and heat spikes we experienced in 2017. The moderate temperatures in the spring and summer allowed for a longer growing season and full flavor development. There was plenty of water in the soil to carry the clusters through the long growing season with minimal dehydration. Our first day of harvest in 2018 was September 10th, compared with an August 26th start in 2017. It was nice that the production crew could enjoy the Labor Day holiday right before the long hours and hard work of harvest began.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

The Lolita Ranch is located on Martinelli Road in Forestville. The property was part of the original Martinelli Homestead Ranch, belonging to Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli who purchased the steep, forested land in the late 1800s. Later, their eldest son Fred sold the parcel to his neighbor, Lolita Young's mother. Eventually Bob and Lolita Young inherited it, and ran a herd of cattle on the land for many years. Lee Martinelli Jr. and his wife Pamela acquired the property in 1999 from Bob Young after Lolita's passing, returning it back to the Martinelli estate and to the family's continuing century-long legacy of viticulture. Lee Jr. decided to name the ranch after Lolita, and planted the steep hillside in 2001 with four different grape varietals: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel.

TASTING NOTES

The bright nose has wonderful aromas of lemon, orange cream, and almonds. The energetic palate has flavors of white peach and honeysuckle followed by a fresh, mineral finish.

2018 Vintage
- 93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 94 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2017 Vintage
- 94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 91 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2016 Vintage
- 94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 92+ points - Wine Advocate

Winemaker:
Courtney Wagoner

Consulting Winemaker:
Erin Green

Case Production: 193