



MARTINELLI

ESTABLISHED IN THE 1880'S

CHARDONNAY

ZIO TONY RANCH VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2022



2021 VINTAGE

94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

96 points – Jeb Dunnuck/Aubrey Frick

2020 VINTAGE

96 points – Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnuck

94 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

WINEMAKING DETAILS

Fermentation: 100% neutral French Oak; 100% Malolactic; on the lees with daily battonage

Oak: 60% new French Oak,
40% neutral French Oak, 10 months

Case Production: 336

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Gold Ridge & Clay Loam

Rootstock: 420, 3309, 101-14

Clones: 548, 95, 76, Wente

WINEMAKER

Courtney Robinett Wagoner

GROWING YEAR

The 2022 season started out with ideal conditions with early rains helping to push bud break into Spring. While we encountered instances of shatter (a grape berry fails to develop because of incomplete pollination) due to frost, this was limited to specific vineyards. Meticulous attention was given to addressing this issue, as we diligently assessed each block and thinned any clusters affected by shatter. Thankfully, the summer months offered the optimal combination of warm days and perfectly cool nights. However, Labor Day weekend launched what has been marked as one of the most heat-intensive 7-day periods on record for Sonoma County, resulting in a significant number of vineyards reaching their ripening stage simultaneously.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

The Zio Tony Ranch is named after Lee Sr.'s uncle Tony who was the first in the Bondi family to be born on American soil. Zio Tony, Zio meaning 'uncle' in Italian and pronounced 'tseo', was a very charismatic man with a big booming voice who loved a good time. When Zio Tony passed away in 1971 his nephew, Lee Martinelli, Sr., took over management of the estate.

The love of his family's heritage land was too great for Lee to sell the property and in one short season, he went from High School teacher to Apple Farmer. Eventually, this apple orchard was converted to vineyards, as the market for apples grew unbearably soft. The vines are planted on rolling hills made up of Gold Ridge soil, with clones consisting of 95, 76, and 548.

TASTING NOTES

The nose reveals enticing aromas of lemon peel, powdered sugar, and delicate caramel. On the palate, it enters with a rich, full-bodied texture, offering luscious flavors of lemon oil and velvety vanilla cream. The finish is long and indulgent, beautifully rounded by the delightful essence of lemon meringue pie.