



MARTINELLI
ESTABLISHED IN THE 1880'S

CHARDONNAY

LOLITA RANCH VINEYARD • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

2021



2021 Vintage

95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous

95 points – Jeb Dunnuck/Aubrey Frick

2020 Vintage

94 points – Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnuck

95 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

WINEMAKING DETAILS

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

Oak: 50% new French Oak, 50% neutral French Oak, 10 months

Case Production: 192

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type:
Josephine and Goldridge

Rootstock:
AXR and St. George

Clones:
Wente and 4

GROWING YEAR

2021 was the driest year on record since they started keeping records 127 years ago. It was also the third year of drought conditions for Sonoma County.

Contrary to these conditions, the summer was relatively cool and started two weeks later than the previous year. The drought conditions did bring ripeness to each of our varieties at just about the same time. By the end of the first week, we had 40% of the total tonnage in the winery. This included Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Zinfandel from both Fort Ross-Seaview and Russian River Valley. Despite being a very compact harvest, small clusters and berry size have yielded exceptional quality which makes 2021 a standout vintage.

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 he then planted the steep hillside in 2001 with four different grape varieties: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, and Zinfandel.

TASTING NOTES

Lively aromas of honeydew melon, and lemon zest fill the glass. A very sweet entry followed with a balanced acid mouth and flavors of tangerine zest and powdered sugar. Hints of barrel spice contribute to the long finish.