



ZINFANDEL
JACKASS HILL • RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY
2023



2023 Vintage

97 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2022 Vintage

96 points – Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnuck

94 points – Antonio Galloni, Vinous

2021 Vintage

98 points – Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

96 points – Audrey Frick, Jeb Dunnuck

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 total

Case Production: 113

VINEYARD DETAILS

Soil Type: Franciscan, Goldridge

Rootstock: St. George

GROWING YEAR

When we look back at the 2023 growing season there are two words that perfectly describe the vintage - late and big. After an exceptionally wet and cool winter, bud break happened over a month later than average. Our first day of picking was the day after the harvest completed the previous year. Fruit set was excellent and the temps during the summer were moderate to cool, with very few days in the triple digits. What a contrast from 2022! Mild temperatures along with abundantly available water allowed the clusters to develop slowly and evenly.

VINEYARD CHARACTER

This rugged vineyard is referred to by the Martinelli family as “Jackass Hill” because only a jackass would farm a hill that steep. Jackass Hill is the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County, boasting slopes of 65 degrees. Lee Sr. is the third generation Martinelli farmer to care-take the original family homestead land; farming the ancient vineyard much as his grandfather Giuseppe had in the 1880s, without irrigation, pesticides, or trellising.

TASTING NOTES

The nose rises gracefully from the glass with vibrant aromas of nectarine, ripe red cherry, and a whisper of freshly cut hardwood. On the palate, a refined elegance unfolds, revealing layered flavors of apricot and Bing cherry. The finish lingers effortlessly, carrying delicate barrel spice that resonates long after the last sip.