



Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel | Russian River Valley 2020

GROWING YEAR

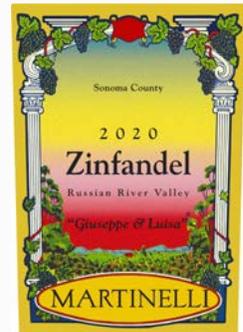
2020 will likely go down as one of the most memorable harvests in Martinelli history. The growing season was nearly perfect until mid-August when two nearby wildfires were ignited by a dry lightning storm. At this point in the berries' growth cycle, the skins are softening and developing favors. Because 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. This is why 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

Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli planted three acres of Zinfandel in the Russian River Valley in the 1880s. The old vineyard is now known as Jackass Hill and remains the steepest non-terraced hillside vineyard in Sonoma County. Nearly one century later Giuseppe and Luisa's grandson, Lee Martinelli Sr., followed in their footsteps by planting a Zinfandel vineyard. He grafted bud wood from the centurion vines onto low-vigor rootstocks and planted them one meter by two meters apart, equating to about 2,000 vines per acre, on a rocky knoll above the Martinelli Winery Tasting Room in Russian River Valley.

TASTING NOTES

Our 2020 Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel has engulfing aromas of Santa Rosa plum flesh, toasted almond, and white pepper that jump from the glass. A ripe plum entry leads to the fresh raspberry mid palate. The balanced acid sensation lasts all the way from mid palate to the fresh, stone fruit finish.



2019 Vintage

- 95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 97 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2018 Vintage

- 95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

2017 Vintage

- 93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 96 points - Erin Brooks, Wine Advocate

Winemaker:

Courtney Wagoner

Consulting Winemaker:

Erin Green

Case Production: 1,508