



**Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel**  
**Russian River Valley**  
**2016**

### **Vineyard Character**

The year was 1899 when Giuseppe and Luisa Martinelli planted three acres of Zinfandel in the Russian River Valley. 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 de-vigorating 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.

### **Growing Year**

Although 2016 received just below average rainfall, it was still considered the last year of our 5-year drought. However, this adequate amount of rain at the appropriate time led to favorable conditions for bloom, which resulted in an even fruit-set and good vine balance. Summer temperatures were generally cooler, which allowed the fruit to ripen more slowly and develop deeper flavors. The weather held steady through harvest allowing us to pick the fruit at optimum maturity levels resulting in wines full of finesse and intensity.

### **Wine Statistics**

The grapes are picked between 25 and 26 degrees brix. After picking, the whole berries undergo a long cool fermentation to generate skin contact and expose fruit character and are fermented with wild yeast. The juice is transferred to oak barrels with a touch of residual sugar remaining to complete the fermentation process in barrel until dry. It rests in 40% new French oak on its gross lees for ten months. The finished wine is un-fined, un-filtered, neither cold nor heat stabilized and contains naturally occurring sediment.

Case Production: 893

### **Tasting Notes**

Our 2016 Giuseppe & Luisa Zinfandel has aromas of blackberry liquor, espresso and blueberries. On the palate it is juicy with dark black cherry and lots of spicy notes, and a very long finish loaded with exotic fruits.

### **Historical Acclaim**

#### **2016 Vintage**

- 95 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93 points The Wine Advocate

#### **2015 Vintage**

- 94 points Antonio Galloni, Vinous
- 93 points The Wine Advocate

**Winemaker:** Bryan Kvamme

**Consulting Winemaker:** Erin Green