

OTTIMINO

Rancho Bello Vineyard

2007 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY ZINFANDEL



Though Rancho Bello Vineyard is contiguous with our home ranch, Ottimino Vineyard, the two are worlds apart in many ways. Rancho Bello is oriented East/West, while Ottimino's vines run North/South. At 23 years old, Rancho Bello is "middle-aged" and Ottimino is the new kid on the block, now 9 years old (making our Von Weidlich Vineyard the granddaddy at well over 70). The extent to which these differences affect the characters of vineyards adjacent to each other is quite astounding—and part of the fun of making each of the single-vineyard Ottimino bottlings with exactly the same techniques.

WINEMAKING:

We employed our usual extraction methods: the fruit was cold-soaked for two days, pumped over vigorously during fermentation, and then the new wine stayed on the skins for 20 days of extended maceration. After pressing, the wine was racked to French oak, mainly Francois Freres and Roberts, where malolactic fermentation occurred. Quarterly rackings softened the tannins and integrated the oak. After 20 months of oak aging, the wine was bottled with no fining and minimal filtration.

TASTING NOTES:

Black cherry and pomegranate aromas are laced with hints of white pepper, Occidental dust, and vanillin spice. The palate entry has gobs of fruit, with cherry, bramble and ripe strawberry at the core. Smooth, round tannins anchor a great depth and concentration of flavor, and the excellent balance makes this Zinfandel a great food wine.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Production Details

Blend:	100% Zinfandel
Vineyard:	Rancho Bello, 23 year old vines
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Cooperage:	Francois Freres, Roberts (custom)
Aging:	Twenty-one months
Barrel Age:	40% new, 60% 1-2 year old
Production:	590 cases

Analytical Data

Harvested:	September 28, 2007
Brix:	25.3
TA:	6.6g/L
pH	3.55
Bottled:	July 29, 2009
TA:	5.6g/L
pH:	3.79
RS:	0.08%