

OTTIMINO

Rancho Bello Vineyard

2013 RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY ZINFANDEL



Though Rancho Bello Vineyard is contiguous with our estate 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 28 years old, Rancho Bello is "middle-aged" and Ottimino is the new kid on the block, now 14 years old (making our Biglieri Vineyard the granddaddy at well over 50). 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 extraction methods typical of our claret style of winemaking: the fruit was cold-soaked for two days, pumped over vigorously during fermentation, and then the new wine stayed on the skins for ten days of extended maceration. After pressing, the wine was racked to French oak, mainly Francois Freres and Tonnelleries O, 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:

Robust black cherry and pomegranate aromas are laced with hints of white pepper, Occidental dust, and cinnamon. The palate entry centers on flavors of black cherry, bramble and ripe strawberry, while smooth, round tannins anchor a great depth and concentration of flavor. The wine's excellent balance makes this Zinfandel a versatile food wine, and perfect for high-end by-the-glass offerings.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Production Details

Blend:	100% Zinfandel
Vineyard:	Rancho Bello
Appellation:	Russian River Valley
Cooperage:	Francois Freres & Tonnelleries O
Aging:	20 months
Barrel Age:	35% new, 65% 2 year old
Production:	280 cases

Analytical Data

Harvested:	October 9, 2013
Brix:	24.5
TA:	6.7 g/L
pH	3.50
Bottled:	August 27, 2015
TA:	5.6 g/L
pH:	3.78