

2016

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY CHARDONNAY

Zio Tony Ranch



PATZ & HALL



VINEYARD CHARACTER

Planted in 1990 by the Martinelli family, Zio Tony Ranch is located on Frei Road in the heart of the Russian River's cool Green Valley. Our coveted section of Zio Tony is planted on top of a gently sloping hill on well-drained, low-vigor, Goldridge sandy loam soils. These iron-rich, reddish soils consistently produce fruit with great structure and acidity. Our 2016 Chardonnay is made from 100% Dijon clone 76, which is notable for its exceptional texture and pure aromatics.

VINTAGE NOTES

One 2016 was another fantastic growing season. It started out with good winter rainfall, which after four years of drought, was a big relief. While the summer of 2016 was quite hot, a perfectly timed cool-down over a three-week period in August allowed the grapes to ripen with moderate sugar levels. It also preserved the acidity that is so essential to making great Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Thus, the quality is exceptional with vivid, alluring flavors in the Chardonnays and deep colors and gorgeous aromatics in the Pinot Noir.

TASTING NOTES

One of the best Zio Tony Chardonnay yet! The nose is a refined compliment of honeydew melon, fresh pine needles and cedar with toasted hazelnuts and fresh butter pie crust. Yeasty and savory, the aromas are layered and complex, turning to fresh peach and ginger as the wine opens. Zio Tony Ranch is one of the highest acid vineyards with which we work, creating freshness and vibrancy on the full-bodied palate. This leads to a mineral, wet stone density that sets up a long and detailed finish.

WINEMAKING

- 100% Chardonnay fruit
- Whole-cluster pressed
- 100% indigenous yeast fermentations (wild)
- *Sur lie* aged with weekly stirring
- 100% malolactic fermentation in barrel
- 100% Burgundian French oak barrels (45% new; 55% 1-2-year old)
- Bottled without filtration to preserve the wine's aromas and flavors and enhance aging potential

RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 2018

RETAIL PRICE PER 750 ML: \$70.00

CASES PRODUCED: 371

LABEL ALCOHOL: 14.4%

THE PATZ & HALL FAMILY OF WINEGROWERS

George Martinelli - Zio Tony Ranch - Russian River Valley, Sonoma County

Since 1887, five generations of the Martinelli family have grown grapes in California. In this time, the Martinelli family has earned acclaim for its expertise growing grapes in the Russian River Valley, and on the Sonoma Coast. Zio Tony Ranch is farmed by George Martinelli, the youngest in the distinguished family of Sonoma County viticultural masters. The Martinelli family named Zio Tony Ranch to honor their uncle Tony, predecessor to the current generation of Martinellis.

James Hall

JAMES HALL | Winemaker

PATZHALL.COM