

JONATA

REVIEWED BY ANTONIO GALLONI
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2008 EL DESAFIO DE JONATA, CABERNET SAUVIGNON 93 POINTS

The 2008 El Desafio de Jonata is layered with fresh, vibrant dark blackberries, blueberries, licorice, spices and leather. It shows marvelous intensity all the way through to the long, resonant finish. A blast of dark fruit, grilled herbs and cassis lingers on the close. In 2008 El Desafio de Jonata is 84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Merlot. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

2008 EL ALMA DE JONATA, CABERNET FRANC 95 POINTS

The 2008 El Alma de Jonata is dazzling. It possesses striking inner perfume, fresh, beautifully delineated fruit and world-class elegance. Layers of plush, dark fruit caress the palate in this pedigreed wine. The 80% new barrels are felt in the wine's breadth and richness, but there is enough fruit to handle the oak. In 2008 the blend is 75% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

2008 LA SANGRE DE JONATA, SYRAH 95 POINTS

The 2008 La Sangre de Jonata is a huge, opulent wine. Layers of blue and black fruit, graphite and licorice flow from this large-scaled, muscular Syrah. This is a super-ripe style that needs a few years in bottle to settle down. It is also the only wine I tasted where the alcohol is slightly intrusive. La Sangre de Jonata is 98% Syrah and 2% Viognier. The wine was aged in medium-sized barrels, 50% new. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022.

2008 TODOS, VINEYARD BLEND 92 POINTS

The 2008 Todos (mostly Syrah) bursts from the glass with expressive blackberries, blueberries, smoke, tar and incense. It is an exotic, full-bodied wine supported by considerable freshness and vibrancy. It naturally doesn't have the exuberance of the estate's best wines, but the price tag is also much more modest. A clean, layered finish rounds things out nicely. In 2008 the blend is 65% Syrah, 17% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot and the rest assorted other varieties. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

2008 TIERRA, SANGIOVESE 92 POINTS

The 2008 Tierra is predominantly Sangiovese, with the addition of 6% Syrah, which the estate uses to give the wine a little more mid-palate density, not a bad thing in a cooler year like 2008. Sweet wild cherries, leather, licorice and tobacco are woven together beautifully in this generous, inviting wine. The French oak (40% new) is a little prominent at this stage, but this is nevertheless a lovely effort. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018.

WINES OF JONATA CONTINUED

2008 FENIX, MERLOT 93 POINTS

The 2008 Fenix is 70% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Sweet dark berries, plums, licorice and leather are some of the notes that jump from the glass in this boisterous, round red. Harmonious and plush through to the finish, this shows the prevalence of Merlot in its juiciness, but with the tannic backbone of the other Bordeaux varieties. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2018.

2008 FUERZA, PETIT VERDOT 91 POINTS

The 2008 Fuerza is 94% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Merlot. Layers of smoke, espresso, licorice, cassis and ash add complexity to a core of sweet, intense dark fruit. The Fuerza is a nicely balanced wine, but doesn't quite have the tannic structure typical of Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018.

2009 FLOR, SAUVIGNON BLANC 90-92 POINTS

The 2009 Flor is a fresh, beautifully articulated white graced with succulent peaches and flowers. The mineral laced finish is elegant and highly expressive. In 2009 the blend is 67% Sauvignon and 33% Semillon. The 2009 Flor was aged in equal parts new oak, neutral oak and stainless steel. Only 10% of the wine went through malo. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014.