

JONATA

EL DESAFIO DE JONATA 2010

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

43% cabernet sauvignon, 11% merlot, 32% cabernet franc, 14% petit verdot

80% new French oak, 20% neutral French oak | 430 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO

Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES

Winemaker

DREW PICKERING

Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

In tasting these wines and recalling the vintage of 2010, one word comes to mind: tension. I'm not only thinking of the tension we felt in the vineyard and winery as we watched the wet winter give way to a cold late spring that continued into a cloudy, non-existent summer; the summer that never was. Then, a series of odd weather patterns moved in and drove away the heat. What followed was a cycle of rain showers every five days that would be our constant companion through the end of harvest.

Instead, I'm speaking of the miraculous way that these potentially adverse conditions combined to produce perhaps the greatest vintage (sadly also the smallest) we've yet seen at Jonata. To my taste, what makes a wine great is the existence of tension within it. This is a combination of balance, vibrancy, and an energetic interplay between all of the components that give a wine its character. The wine can pull you in different ways moving from taut to generous, from delicate to massive, but it should always come back to a cohesive whole. It is a magical balancing act from a vineyard firing on all cylinders.

ON THE WINE

Absolute 2010. One pick taken from nearly every block of merlot, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and petit verdot. This complex blend shows the pronounced voice of each individual block and grape variety. The grapes were sorted in the vineyard during harvest to allow us to dodge the curve balls thrown at us in the form of numerous October rains. The best of the best. Unmatched in its layers of aromatic complexity, with decadent black fruit, hints of pepper, cool mineral notes, and the perfect touch of herbaceousness. For those bemoaning the loss of Alma, the higher than normal percentage of cabernet franc in this blend comes screaming out of the glass with lavender and a cool minty side. The black fruit from the cabernet acts as the anchor with silky texture and a strong backbone of structure. The true miracle wine and a blend that speaks volumes to the powerful personality and toughness of the Jonata vineyard.. An unforgettable Desafio! The ultimate act of defiance; a ripe, layered and luscious Bordeaux blend from a patience-trying vintage.

ACCOLADES

93 POINTS *The Wine Advocate* #208, August 30, 2013

93 POINTS *Antonio Galloni's Vinous*, July 2013

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