

JONATA

EL ALMA DE JONATA 2009

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

70% cabernet franc, 20% cabernet sauvignon, 9% merlot, 1% petit verdot

80% new French oak, 20% neutral French oak | 575 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO

Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES

Winemaker

DREW PICKERING

Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

While I often consider cabernet franc to be my favorite of the grapes grown at Jonata, it often also serves as the source of most of my harvest headaches. It is a difficult grape to grow and tricky to ripen, needing to hang longer than our other varieties to outgrow its hard, awkward, herbal stages. 2009 gave us the gift of truly ripe cabernet franc without all of the headaches.

ON THE WINE

The resulting wine shows all of the classic perfumed Alma notes of lavender, cacao, black olive, scorched earth, graphite and dusty herbal nuances. However, the 2009 also displays the dense and incredibly powerful black fruit that cabernet franc is capable of producing in warmer vintages. The fruit jumps out behind the ethereal and complex initial aromatics and dominates on the full bodied and opulent mid palate. Although still very primary, this wine is also already very generous and deep, a youngster hinting at the greatness it will achieve with age. The stout tannins and backing acidity should supply ample support for years of evolution and cellar maturity to come—a heady and perfumed monster of a young wine, in the same footprint as the 2007. Chewy and complete.

ACCOLADES

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

93 POINTS *Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, November/December 2012*

92 POINTS *Antonio Galloni's Vinous, August 2012*