

JONATA

EL DESAFIO DE JONATA 2011

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

95% cabernet sauvignon, 3% merlot, 2% petit verdot

80% new French oak and 20% neutral French oak | 510 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO

Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES

Winemaker

DREW PICKERING

Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

A wet winter, a rare spring frost episode and windy conditions at set formed an ominous trio for the beginning of the 2011 harvest. The resulting crop was greatly reduced. The average tonnage per acre on the Bordeaux grapes was well below 2 tons per acre, at 1.78. For our tight vine density, that yield is truly paltry. Syrah and sangiovese fared better, but both were down about 20% from the previous vintages.

Enough with the negative as this is where it ends. Not all is gloom and doom in 2011. Spoiler alert: it is my favorite vintage to date. It is certainly our finest to date.

At Jonata, I've learned to become a believer in silver linings. That is a big deal coming from me, as I have long been considered to have a pretty substantial pessimistic streak. This change of heart isn't based on luck or chance or anything in between. It is based on the near miraculous ability of the Jonata vineyard to roll with the changes and deliver world class fruit across a huge spectrum of vintage conditions.

ON THE WINE

Sings in the glass immediately. Much like its sister, El Alma, it has delicate earth and herbal notes.

Cacao, black plum, espresso, dust and black licorice. It is a completely different beast on the palate. It is juicy and packed with mouthwatering fruit. Cabernet sauvignon thrived in 2011 and it shows immediately on the mid palate and long lingering finish. At 95% cabernet sauvignon, it is apparent that the "king of grapes" didn't need any help from its Bordeaux brethren to fill any holes in tis vintage. This cabernet sauvignon fires on all cylinders. It has monstrous intensity of fruit and palate filling chalky tannin. A sparkling and pristine presentation of El Desafio.

ACCOLADES

95 POINTS *The Wine Advocate #208*, August 2013

95 POINTS *Antonio Galloni Vinous*, July 2014