

JONATA

LA SANGRE DE JONATA 2009

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

99% syrah, 1% viognier

50% new French oak, 50% neutral French oak | 900 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO

Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES

Winemaker

DREW PICKERING

Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

One of the true charms of growing syrah lies in its ability to thrive amidst challenging weather conditions. It's a thick skinned, tough grape that grows on one of the heartiest vines in the vineyard. The heat spikes in 2009 didn't seem to bother the Jonata syrah blocks. We were able to pick the fruit from each block with relative ease and I recall being absolutely shocked by the intensity and concentration of the fruit in the winery. The heat during the day brought out the monstrous qualities of syrah. The cold nights kept the spice and elegance.

I will also never forget the freakish dark color of the juice in the winery; a signal of the power of the wines to come. A winemaker from the Barossa Valley in Australia paid us a visit as we were de-stemming syrah and filling tanks for fermentation. I decided to pull some juice out of the tank we were filling to taste and the winemaker, assuming that the juice in my glass was finished wine ready for bottling, mentioned that he had never seen syrah wine that dark. That was juice that had been on the skins for less than a half an hour! We knew we were dealing with something very special at that point.

ON THE WINE

With eight hours of decanting: Floral notes begin to appear, the density becomes more evident and the finish begins to show its seemingly endless flourish. At the beginning of day two, this wine has decided to speak in more depth. As it comes out of its shell, the 2009 reveals itself to be the most powerful and potentially age-worthy Sangre to date, as black fruit, black spice and meaty notes dominate the nose, the palate and the finish. By day three it's in full glory—a shy and mysterious bruiser of a wine that promises years and years of development and beautiful drinking (as if you can wait three days to drain the bottle). The most “wow” I've sensed in a young La Sangre to date.

ACCOLADES

96-99 POINTS *The Rhone Report*, June 2012

94+ POINTS *The Wine Advocate #202*, August 31, 2012

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

92 POINTS *The Wine Spectator*, December 2012

94+ POINTS *Antonio Galloni's Vinous*, August 2012