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

Knockout nose with charcoal, black plum, graphite and black olive. Lifted gamey syrah with a hint of cool climate spice. The beauty and bold voice of ripe and hedonistic syrah dominates the nose, but shares the stage with cabernet sauvignon on the palate. Suave black fruit intermingles with herbal notes and a dusty and earthy charm. Well-endowed with heaps of dry extract that arrives in layers. A wine that achieves a great level of tension; ripe and round fruit, framed by taut acidity and bold tannins. Leaves a mouthwatering cooling, minty sensation on the finish. With all ten grapes we grow at the ranch accounted for in the blend, Todos is a fantastic snap shot of what makes 2010 at Jonata so special.

ACCOLADES

95 POINTS The Wine Advocate #208, August 30, 2013
94 POINTS Antonio Galloni’s Vinous, August 2012