

JONATA

EL ALMA DE JONATA 2011

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

78% cabernet franc, 15% cabernet sauvignon, 4% petit verdot, 3% merlot
80% new French oak and 20% neutral French oak | 425 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

Heady and colorful nose of red fruit, black Kalamata olive, fresh green herbs and clean, brown earth. It is an experience just smelling this blend. Seductive stuff. A wine of balance and intrigue. Dark bittersweet chocolate, dried leaves, sweet tobacco, black tea and Luxardo cherries. Stays fresh and refined across the palate and finishes with a note of minty coolness and firm yet fine tannin. Cooler climate cabernet franc at its complete and complex best.

ACCOLADES

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

94 POINTS *Antonio Galloni Vinous*, July 2014