

JONATA

LA SANGRE DE JONATA 2014 BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

99% Syrah, 1% Viognier
30% new French oak, 70% neutral French oak
497 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

The 2014 vintage was at least a month early which was highly unusual. Early on in the spring of 2014 we decided to hedge our bets and approach this harvest with very low yields in all blocks. We felt this would give us the best chance to handle any odd weather curveballs that mother nature threw our way. We just had a gut feeling that we were in for an unusual harvest. In all Jonata blocks, we dropped the normal two clusters per shoot immediately to one cluster per shoot in the spring. As the vintage progressed, we revisited most blocks and cut the remaining one cluster per shoot in half.

I remember thinking at that time that it is never a great idea to wax poetically about a vintage until it is passed and its wines have been in barrel for at least 16 months. That being said, let's just say that the 2014 wines were extremely promising across the board from the very start. As always in a vintage as unique and early as 2014, the secret to success lies in the vineyard. I am incredibly excited about the entire range. As the vines continue to mature at Jonata, I believe we will continue to see more balance and elegance. We'll still produce powerful wines obviously, but perhaps big wines with more polite manners. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

A polished and perfumed Sangre in the same family as our favorite vintages: 2006, 2008 and 2010. While it certainly doesn't lack power, it wows with its silky fruit and seductive structure. Just open enough to enjoy today and endowed with the muscle to last a decade, this Sangre showcases the maturing syrah vines at Jonata. It seems to gain momentum with every new vintage. Certainly no shrinking violet...more of a rose about to bloom.

ACCOLADES

99 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2017

94 POINTS *Wine Advocate* August 2017

93 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* August 2017