

JONATA

EL DESAFIO DE JONATA 2012

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

64% cabernet sauvignon, 16% cabernet franc, 15% petit verdot, 5% merlot
80% new French oak, 20% neutral French oak | 457 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

2012 was one of those rare vintages when both quantity and quality were very high. In a year where Mother Nature gave us a beneficially stacked deck with basically uninterrupted sunshine and warm days, I believe we played our hand perfectly at Jonata.

What appeared to be three tons per acre turned out to be six+ tons at harvest in some other vineyards. At Jonata, we decided early in the growing season to make a move toward continued quality and thus went about a very vigorous yield-thinning followed by an equally aggressive green drop at veraison. The resulting small yields gave us wines that are densely packed with fruit, but also alive with an invigorating tension. Even at an early stage, many of them were already mesmerizing.

ON THE WINE

An evocative nose defined by true cassis and gorgeous dark-green notes of licorice, dried herbs, and nori. Muscular, dense, and structured, this is everything cab should be: more darkness, more power, more complexity. And yet also restrained, with black fruit and dusty herbal notes intertwined, picking up momentum on the palate. Remains refined and somewhat reserved today. Stands in line with the legendary 2009 Desafio. Dark and brooding—another stunning defiance.

ACCOLADES

95 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *The Wine Advocate* #220 August 2015

94 POINTS Antonio Galloni's *Vinous* August 2015