

JONATA

2018 FLOR SAUVIGNON BLANC

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Sémillon | 275 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

VINTAGE RUMINATIONS

The magic of the 2018 harvest really began to appear in mid-August when the temperatures cooled again and basically remained sunny, mild and in the eighties for the remainder of the harvest season. The ripening from veraison to harvest occurred under absolutely picture perfect conditions. This long and slow harvest allowed for beautiful phenological ripening without the abrupt rise in sugar and corresponding dramatic drop in acidity that can result from typical heat spikes.

The harvest at JONATA was tremendous and began on September 15, 2018 with sangiovese and merlot being the only grapes brought in that month. The rainfall at the estate from the early October event was minimal. It basically acted to remove the dust from the clusters. The Jonata harvest was roughly 2 weeks later than in 2017 with slow and even ripening throughout. The large majority of red fruit was picked from October 10 through October 26 under clear blue skies.

2018 is one of those rare vintages (unicorn vintages, if you will...) when yields are healthy and quality is exceptional. The white wines are velvet in texture and absolutely full of tension and energy. The reds are defined by subtlety and elegance. They are a pleasure to taste. They appear to be similar to the 2017 reds with that same complexity and charm. These are very exciting wines. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

As Flor is such a consistent and singular wine, I find that so much of the pleasure lies in the nuances; the subtle changes from year to year that clearly reflect the vintage growing conditions. The 2018 is a classic with lemon curd, chamomile, grapefruit and honey on the nose. A very lifted and exotic vintage. The defining aspect of this version can be found in its seamless and plush texture. It absolutely floats across the palate with white peach and honeysuckle. The 2018 Flor definitely benefitted from the extra hang time under perfect ripening conditions that defined the year. Finishes with the vibrant acidity, lime pith structure and sea salt lift that have defined this wine since 2005. A worthy successor and challenger to the epic 2017 Flor. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

94 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* August 2020

91 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2020