

JONATA

LA SANGRE DE JONATA 2011

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

91% syrah, 6% grenache, 3% viognier

35% new French oak and 65% neutral French oak | 510 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

Even at this early stage, it immediately jumps out of the glass aromatically. The descriptors could fill this entire page. It displays some similarity at this stage to its older sibling, the legendary 2008. This is the first Sangre to include significant amounts of passito-style dried and whole cluster fermented wines (20%) and also a dollop of Grenache (6%). The resulting notes of dried herbs on the nose and the blast of ripe red fruit on the palate are a welcome addition to the simultaneously chaotic and focused mélange that is Sangre. After all this exotic talk of stem inclusion, drying fruit and Grenache additions, it is remarkable to note that this is the most reserved and elegant of all of the Sangre blends to date. It is beyond perfumed on the nose, but remains tightly coiled on the palate. With time in glass it opens to showcase peaks of velvet and plush richness on the mid palate. The earthy side of syrah also plays a large role. It is soft and supple with remarkably fine tannins. This is a special Sangre.

ACCOLADES

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

95 POINTS *Antonio Galloni Vinous*, July 2014