

# JONATA

## EL DESAFIO DE JONATA 2014

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

79% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc  
80% new French oak, 20% neutral French oak | 516 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

Darker and more brooding with the essence of cassis. Tight and coiled as we would hope at this "baby" stage. Great expansion of fruit on the attack shows its potential. Sweet and substantial tannins build early and help define this young cabernet sauvignon. An absolutely refined and classic Desafio. We can't wait to watch this wine grow.

### ACCOLADES

**94 POINTS** Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2017

**93 POINTS** Antonio Galloni *Vinous* August 2017