

JONATA

EL ALMA DE JONATA 2014 BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

88% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon , 2% Petit Verdot
80% new French oak, 20% neutral French oak | 184 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

Perfumed and intoxicating nose of bright red fruit with earth-driven herbal hints, lavender and a lifted note of new leather. The Alma we've always aspired to produce. A wine of substance, complexity and charm. Wonderful interplay between sweet red fruit, dark herbal notes and chalky and lingering tannins. Fascinating and layered. A sincere and intense expression of cabernet franc.

ACCOLADES

95 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2017

93+ POINTS *Wine Advocate* August 2017

92 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* August 2017