

# JONATA

## 2015 FENIX MERLOT

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

47% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 19% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot  
537 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO  
*Vineyard Manager*

MATT DEES  
*Winemaker*

DREW PICKERING  
*Assistant Winemaker*

### RUMINATIONS

**A NOTE ON DRINKABILITY:** While I usually push for early enjoyment of our wines to capture their vibrant youth and energy, I'd strongly recommend laying the 2015 Desafio, Alma, Fuerza and Tierra down for a number of years. They all contain so much of what makes 2015 superb:

incredible generosity of fruit, remarkable concentration of flavors, lifted freshness and a structural integrity that seems to frame the fruit and finish for days. Thanks to this combination of energy and power, they could certainly use a few years to evolve and stretch out.

See if you can find a spot for them in your cellar...

In the meantime, there is so much immediate pleasure in the 2015 Sangre, Fenix and Todos, though they too will blossom to become so much more complete with some additional time.

They offer an earlier window through which to enjoy and understand what a fantastic vintage we experienced in 2015! — Matt Dees Winemaker

### ON THE WINE

Intense and brooding aromatics of dark chocolate, mint, blackberry and dried mushrooms.

Dense and sweet black fruit on the attack and a classy velvet feel. Seamless texture with enticing notes of clove and fig. Savory and herbal notes from cabernet franc lift the blend.

Black fruit is buffered by a wall of muscular, yet fine grained structure.

A merlot-based wine of unabashed power, yet undeniable finesse. — Matt Dees Winemaker

### ACCOLADES

**93+ Points** Lisa Perrotti-Brown *The Wine Advocate* September 2017

**97 Points** Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2017