

JONATA

2016 FENIX MERLOT

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

58% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

615 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

RUMINATIONS

A NOTE ON DRINKABILITY: Jonata continued to shine despite the extended drought producing a strong lineup across the board in 2016. We lost leaves like we did in 2007 and 2009, but we were able to harvest clean fruit without pressure over a three-week period ending prior to the brutal 9/25 heat spell. 2016 presented excellent growing conditions for the Bordeaux family of grapes. Merlot seems to have thrived after achieving near perfect set in the spring. The resulting wines seem to point to a stronger future for merlot on the property. They are dark and rich with enough mid-palate sweetness to soften and intensify even the leanest of wines.

— Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

Blackberry, loam, elderberry, cacao, graphite and baking spice. Massive wine that somehow manages to remain delicately focused. Impenetrable and dense. Grounded by delicious and fine, chalky tannins. The joy here undoubtedly lies in the unctuous layers of black and red fruit that form a cascade in the middle of this wine. Early accumulation of fresh and delectable tannins that pushes with fruit through the long and graceful finish. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

95 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2018

97+ POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* October 2018

93+ POINTS Erin Brooks *The Wine Advocate* September 2019