

JONATA

2018 EL DESAFIO DE JONATA **CABERNET SAUVIGNON**

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Cabernet Franc, 11% Petit Verdot

541 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Associate Winemaker

VINTAGE RUMINATIONS

The magic of the 2018 harvest really began to appear in mid-August when the temperatures cooled again and basically remained sunny, mild and in the eighties for the remainder of the harvest season. The ripening from veraison to harvest occurred under absolutely picture perfect conditions. This long and slow harvest allowed for beautiful phenological ripening without the abrupt rise in sugar and corresponding dramatic drop in acidity that can result from typical heat spikes.

The harvest at JONATA was tremendous and began on September 15, 2018 with sangiovese and merlot being the only grapes brought in that month. The rainfall at the estate from the early October event was minimal. It basically acted to remove the dust from the clusters. The Jonata harvest was roughly 2 weeks later than in 2017 with slow and even ripening throughout. The large majority of red fruit was picked from October 10 through October 26 under clear blue skies.

2018 is one of those rare vintages (unicorn vintages, if you will...) when yields are healthy and quality is exceptional. The white wines are velvet in texture and absolutely full of tension and energy. The reds are defined by subtlety and elegance. They are a pleasure to taste. They appear to be similar to the 2017 reds with that same complexity and charm. These are very exciting wines. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

Absolutely heady perfume. Spiced dark chocolate, cassis, bay leaf, dried sage, fig paste and currant candies. A wine that immediately stands out in the lineup. More density, more aromatics, more power. A wine of tremendous force and direction. Intense and concentrated, serious and focused. Still tightly coiled and freakishly young. Kept lively and fresh with notes of fresh mint and sage. Like a firm, but sweet blackberry. Finish highlighted by cooling, gentle tannins. Definitely in the conversation of hallowed Desafio vintages. Unique in its expression and focus. Profound in a similar way to the 2018 Alma. Earthy structure and sweet, black fruit. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

97 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* August 2020

95 - 97 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* August 2020