

JONATA

2017 EL ALMA DE JONATA CABERNET FRANC

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

79% Cabernet Franc, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon

300 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

VINTAGE RUMINATIONS

A wet winter finally broke the drought in 2017. The rain was a blessing as it refreshed our soils and water quality. Conditions were peaceful and warm during budbreak and early spring. However, the cool conditions during flowering prolonged the process, led to very small clusters and resulted in miniscule yields. In many cases, we saw roughly 50% of our normal yields. It was certainly a year with some of the smallest yields and earliest harvest dates for us (with a few of the first picks coming in mid-August).

We experienced great growing conditions in June and July before a suddenly cool August. The weather changed radically again in late August and early September with heat spikes and rain events starting Labor Day and continuing to September 10th. There were also unusually humid conditions for the first half of September, but miraculously the rain skipped over our vineyards. We were able to harvest some fruit prior to the warm periods that graced our blends with freshness and structural integrity. We also harvest selected blocks after the heat had passed, giving wines with density and power. The combination of these characteristics resulted in wines of purity, balance and complexity. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

Sophisticated and lifted nose of fresh herbs, dried roses and ripe fig. Tart raspberry, bay leaf, dark Gaviota strawberry and red currants lead the attack. Freshly turned soil, chalk dust and cacao nibs lend a textural counterpoint to the suave fruit. Beetroot, blood orange, pencil shavings and cedar. A cooling, vibrant and immensely soulful Alma. Finishes with big push of dark fruit, cacao, green mint and grilled meat. An ethereal and poignant cabernet franc blend. One can sense the maturity of the vines in the added layer of refinement and subtlety. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

96 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2019

95 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* October 2019