

JONATA

2016 EL ALMA DE JONATA CABERNET FRANC

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

86% Cabernet Franc, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot

205 Cases Produced

RUBEN SOLÓRZANO
Vineyard Manager

MATT DEES
Winemaker

DREW PICKERING
Assistant Winemaker

VINEYARD RUMINATIONS

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.

For the second year in a row, the cabernet franc blocks have given us monstrous blends of freakish intensity. While endowed with massive sweet fruit, they are also full of exotic notes and wonderfully sweet tannins. Drought-driven cabernet franc is a powerful thing. In some respects, they remind me of the young 2009 wines. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ON THE WINE

Swirling and towering nose. Complex and sophisticated. Deep red, dark green and pitch black. Cassis, espresso bean, bay, thyme and rosemary. Ethereal and velvet fruit. Perfectly steeped black tea. Creamy and dense on the palate. Cocoa powder and dark chocolate. Drink earlier to enjoy the baby fat or put a few bottles away deep in your cellar as we've never seen an Alma quite like this. As if 2009 and 2015 Alma had a beautiful baby (with 2007's perfect balance of course).

— Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

93 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2018

99 POINTS Jeb Dunnuck *jebdunnuck.com* October 2018

91-93 POINTS William Kelley *The Wine Advocate* April 2018