

JONATA

2017 EL DESAFIO DE JONATA CABERNET SAUVIGNON

BALLARD CANYON, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

650 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

Absolute essence of cassis and mint. Scorched earth, grilled bread, porcini and bay leaf. Blueberry and ripe tobacco. Explodes on the palate with tremendous quantities of black, dense fruit. Layer after layer. Stays focused and poised with good tension and acid backbone. Gently coating silky tannins. Perfect balance and pedigree and a heightened level of elegance and clarity. Shows the huge potential of cabernet sauvignon from the 17-year old vines on our sandy soils. A Desafio of exceptional precision and understated power. — Matt Dees Winemaker

ACCOLADES

97 POINTS Antonio Galloni *Vinous* September 2019

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