

Kunin Wines - Chenin Blanc, Jurassic Park

- One of the best Chenin Blancs in California
- Classic old-world varietal that has “found a home” in California’s Central Coast
- Great vineyard site, one of the oldest in Santa Ynez Valley

The Producer

Kunin Wines is a boutique producer of high quality premium wines from some of the finest vineyards in California’s Central Coast. Their philosophy is simple: when you open a bottle, you can be assured from vineyard to glass, very little has been done to alter the purity of the fruit or its natural terroir. With ten limited quantity wines – some just a few hundred cases in production, Kunin offers an exclusive experience of this sought after region.

Owner and winemaker Seth Kunin developed his passion for great wine while working in the restaurant business. Pursing his dream to make wine, he apprenticed at Gainey Vineyard, located in the now very popular (thanks to the movie Sideways) Santa Ynez Valley, where he learned the art of winemaking and became intrigued with the area’s terroir. He started Kunin Wines in 1998 with a vision to create handcrafted, terroir-driven, authentic wines from California’s Central Coast.

Kunin focuses on Rhône and other varietals ideally suited to the region, including Syrah, Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Grenache, Mourvedre and Zinfandel. Vineyard sites are carefully selected to suit each varietal, and to support a long, cool growing season needed to cultivate Kunin’s characteristic “old-world” style. Kunin currently sources from famous and sought after estates including Larner in Ballard Canyon (a choice region expected to become a new AVA), Alisos Vineyard in Los Alamos Valley, and Jurassic Park in Santa Ynez Valley.

Meticulous farming of great vineyard sites allows Kunin to strike a balance of ripeness and acidity and produce wines of exceptional elegance that will age gracefully and pair well with food. Kunin generally uses oak sparingly, to avoid masking varietal and terroir.

In keeping with their philosophy that wines should be “as nature intended,” Kunin Wines reflect their varietal, terroir and vintage. Variations in temperature from one year to the next are revealed in the vintages, providing an authentic expression of Mother Nature.

While allowing vintages to be uniquely expressed, quality is always paramount, and Kunin lets vintage quality dictate production levels. Annual production is usually around 5,800 cases.

The Wine

This wine came from Jurassic Park, one of the oldest vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley. The site is rich in fossils – hence the name. Chenin Blanc thrives in this well drained, sandy soil and warm, breezy climate. With gentle use of oak, Kunin has crafted a fresh Chenin Blanc without excessive barrel richness. Delicious, unique, and memorable!



Appellation: 100% Santa Ynez Valley

Vineyards: 100% Curtis (Jurassic Park)

Varietal Blend: 100% Chenin Blanc

Vinification: 100% whole cluster pressed to tank. Cold-settled overnight, racked off gross lees. Fermented and aged, sur lees, in barrel for 9 months. Partial malolactic.

Aging: Neutral and 2 year-old barrels

Alcohol: 13.4%

Production: 145 cases

Tasting Notes: Leesy, peachy fruit on the nose, with some gentle oak and peach flavors on the palate, along with a surprising bit of acidity/minerality. A quick hint of richness gives way to a light-bodied mouthfeel and clean, crisp finish.