

Kunin Wines, Syrah, Alisos Vineyard

- Single vineyard Syrah from one of the best vineyards in the appellation
- Bottle-aged to capture the intensity of youth, with hallmark licorice and floral tones
 - Only 232 cases produced

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. Pursuing his dream to make wine, he apprenticed at Gaineey 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 vineyard's high elevation, exposures and well-drained soils produce grapes with concentration and complexity unrivaled in the Santa Barbara appellation. From this choice production, Kunin selects the 10 best barrels. The wine is briefly aged in oak, and then bottle aged to capture the intensity of its youth and the essence of its terroir. While each vintage is unique, the common thread is their licorice, floral, violet tones, and old-world elegance. An excellent and rare treat!



Appellation: Santa Maria Valley

Vineyards: 100% Alisos

Varietal Blend: 100% Syrah

Vinification: 100% destemmed, with as many whole berries as possible, into 1-ton open top fermentors, punched down by hand 2-3 times per day. Pressed at dryness, settled, then racked to barrel. The yeasts used were commercial strains including BM-45 (Brunello) and D-254 (Rhône).

Ageing: 10 months in French and American oak, 30% new

Alcohol: 14.6%

Production: 232 cases

Tasting Notes: Dark fruits and black licorice on the nose, along with a bit of black pepper and violet. The palate is elegant, with black cherry fruit and a varietal spicy, gamey character. Long finish with freshness and moderate tannins.