

LIEU DIT

‘These impeccably made wines have lots of character, represent superb values in most cases and are well worth checking out.’ -Robert Parker

Year Founded: 2011

Region: Santa Ynez

Winemaker: Justin Willett

Known for: Being Lieu-dicious

Another Cool fact: Lieu-dit is a French term referring to a specific part of a vineyard or region recognized for its own topographic or historical specificities.

-Sustainable and Natural-

We love the idea that the vineyards that grow the best grapes gain enough of a reputation that everyone starts calling them by their name. In our little corner of sunny Santa Barbara, California, we know the best places where the grapes we love are responsibly grown. And that helps us make simple, delicious, honest wine. We focus on three French grape varieties that make classic, food-friendly wines. Sauvignon Blanc, Chenin Blanc, and Cabernet Franc. From these grapes we make wines to enjoy everyday and on special occasions. Justin Willett is a father, husband, winemaker, and proud son of sunny Santa Barbara, California. It takes a native son to know the names of all the region's hidden places where responsibly grown grapes can be made into consciously crafted wine.



2024 Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Ynez

Our winemaking responds to the different styles of Sauvignon Blanc from our three vineyard sources (McGinley Vineyard, China Blue Vineyard, Santa Ynez Vineyard). First, we gently press the grapes before fermenting the juice in both stainless steel tanks and in old oak barrels. Rather than making the wine in just one vessel, diversifying our fermentation techniques highlights the layers of nuance that the different vineyards provide. After fermentation, the wine is aged in tanks and old barrels for about six months. Before putting the wine to bottle, we lightly clarify it by fining with bentonite clay.

90 Points – Robert Parker – “Fresh herbs, white flowers, pea tendrils and citrus zest aromas introduce the 2024 Sauvignon Blanc, followed by a refreshing, lifted and admirably poised palate. It concludes with a succulent, high-toned finish, accompanied by additional citrus flavors and flinty nuances.”





2025 Chenin Blanc, Santa Ynez

Chenin Blanc is the best kept secret in the world of wine. Richer than Sauvignon Blanc but impossibly light on its feet, Chenin Blanc is probably your new favorite wine you just don't know it yet. Let us introduce you to the quiet luxury of Chenin Blanc: at once decadent and bracingly fresh. Chenin Blanc is a favorite of sommeliers and chefs because it is so versatile and enjoyable when paired with a wide range of cuisines. For us - and many fans of Chenin Blanc - it's really all about the texture. The bright aromas are lovely, but the feel of the wine is what captivates and delights. This Chenin is from Happy Canyon Vineyard on chamise Shaley loam with serpentine cobbles. Aged in neutral French oak and stainless steel.

90 Points - '24 Robert Parker – *“Presents a beautiful bouquet of green orchard fruits, citrus blossoms and a hint of lees-derived richness. The palate delivers the racy vibrancy that permeates the Lieu Dit lineup, bolstered with an elegantly broad touch as it closes with a focused acidity and talc-like grip.”*



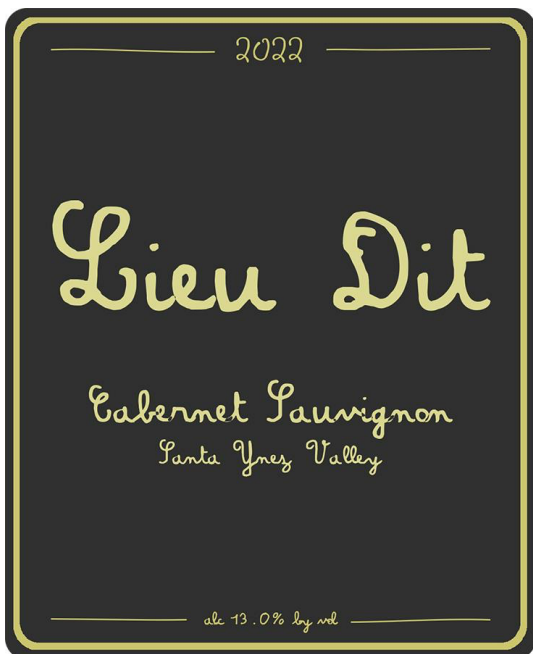
2023 Cabernet Franc, Santa Ynez

'Top 100 Wines' -Wine Enthusiast 2021

Sourced from two blocks in the Happy Canyon Vineyard - in the easternmost sub-appellation of the Santa Ynez Valley - from Rock Hollow Vineyard, just west of Los Olivos; and Justin Willett's monopole in Happy Canyon, China Blue. The wine is fermented using native yeast and partial whole clusters. Once dry, we rack the wine to tank before transferring to neutral oak barrels for the winter.

93 Points – '23 Vinous – *“Aromatic, bright and nicely lifted. Crushed red berry fruit, mint, white pepper and dried herbs open beautifully, giving gorgeous aromatic presence and breadth. The purity of the fruit is front and center.”*

92 Points – '19 Vinous – *“An incredibly fun and delicious wine. A burst of sweet red cherry, rose petal, mint, sage and lavender race across the palate as this boisterous, juicy wine shows off its generous fruit and alluring personality.”*



2023 Cabernet Sauvignon

We've begun our second decade of exploring this remarkable region by adding a new lens through which to view it. Cabernet Sauvignon - regal and refined - shares anew what we've always known: Santa Barbara is singular in its balance of power and elegance. Perhaps California's most recognized grape variety, Cabernet Sauvignon wasn't added to our collection on a whim. After a decade's lessons in the vineyards of Santa Ynez, we knew that Cabernet Sauvignon was essential to telling the full story of our home. When approached considerably in both the vineyard and the cellar, Cabernet is uniquely poised to speak of the patient development of power and subtlety afforded to us by the region's union of ocean wind and unbridled sunlight. Destemmed to open-top stainless tanks for native fermentation; macerated for two-and-a-half weeks and managed with pumpovers. Pressed down to French barriques (approximately 10% of which were new); racked once after malolactic fermentation and again to tank for bottling. Unfined, lightly filtered.

93 Points – Vinous – *“Marries old-school varietal signatures with midweight texture and fruit-forward approachability. Rich blackberry, dark chocolate, grilled herbs and sweet pipe tobacco flesh out in the glass. Generous but not heavy, the 2023 will delight lovers of New World-inflected but classically built wines. Fabulous.”*