

Stolpman Vineyards "Vni"

2020 TECH

VINEYARD COMPONENTS

Block 3 Roussanne and Chardonnay

VARIETAL BLEND

70% Roussanne, 30% Chardonnay

FINAL ANALYSIS

alcohol: 13%

VINIFICATION

Whole-bunch crushed, 2 hours skin contact

VATTING/FERMENTATION

Native fermentation in neutral 500L French puncheons

COOPERAGE & ELEVAGE

10 months in neutral 500L French oak puncheons

HARVEST DATE

Chardonnay September 8, Roussanne October 20 2020

RELEASE DATE

September 2021

TOTAL PRODUCTION

900 cases

BACKGROUND

Roussanne might be the richest, most decadent white grape in the world of wine. Ripe fruit intensity, and a coating, thick mid-palate deliver a hedonistic "wow" factor not often found in white wines.

Because Roussanne spends months ripening on the vine, slowly developing its signature flavor concentration, the tart acidity of the grape often dwindles by harvest time. At Stolpman, we decided zesty Chardonnay would be the perfect blending compliment. The Chardonnay lends a structured back-bone that refreshes the palate once the Roussanne's up-front wave of flavor ebbs.

Like Santa Barbara's most famous delicacy, urchin harvested off our Channel Islands, the Uni white wine combines decadent richness with delicate precision. We originally created Uni in 2016 as an exclusive for the Uchi sushi group out of Austin, Texas. Word quickly got out about the wine, with the help of SommTV's promotion of Uni alongside the release of the Delicacy film. Today, Uni can be enjoyed throughout the US, Japan, and Korea.

VINTAGE

The deep-rooted Chardonnay vines (planted in 1994) shrugged off the heatwaves of 2020 and delivered the sought-after brightness to the Uni blend. The late ripening Roussanne fully recovered from the early heat and marched on in ripening for a typical late October harvest.

AT THE WINERY

Unlike the 2016 and 2020 vintages, we preferred the Uni blend clean, and we opted not to stir the lees prior to bottling. The resulting wine has a linear purity but with fine layers of texture filling the mouth.

SENSORY

A depth of honeysuckle elevated via a pineapple bridge to lemon+lime and crunchy pear flesh. Softly billowing in the mouth closing with a precise, clean finish. The most balanced Uni yet, with complementing forces of ripe, rich Roussanne and high-toned Chardonnay. The underlying citrus spray refines and checks the intense concentration of the Roussanne and the wine delivers a delightfully seamless tasting experience.