

LIEU DIT

‘40 Under 40 Tastemakers of 2015’
- Wine Enthusiast

‘Sommelier of the Year’
- Food&Wine Magazine 2014

‘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

Winemakers/Owners:
Eric Railsback & Justin Willett

Known for: Being Lieu-dicious

Cool Fact: Eric is heavily influenced by his many trips to the Loire Valley and Lieu Dit is focused exclusively on those varietals.

Another Cool fact: Lieu-dit is a French toponymic term for a *small geographical area bearing a traditional name. The name usually refers to some characteristic of the place, its former use, a past event, etc.*

-Sustainable and Natural-

Lieu Dit is a partnership of longtime friends Eric Railsback and Justin Willett. They met in Santa Barbara while Eric was finishing college and Justin was just beginning his career in winemaking. The two were among a small group of young winemakers and restaurateurs in Santa Barbara unified by a common interest in wine and all its mysteries.

After countless bottles shared together and many trips to France, Railsback and Willett decided to found Lieu Dit in 2011 and focus it solely in the varieties indigenous to the Loire Valley, now grown in Santa Barbara County. The varied microclimates and marine-based soils of Santa Barbara County are ideally suited to this set of grapes. Lieu Dit centers on Sauvignon Blanc with Chenin Blanc, Cabernet Franc, and Rosé and produces around 2500 cases annually. With each vintage, the quest for purity, elegance, and balance in every wine is paramount.



2023 Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Ynez

Sourced from three vineyards in the Happy Canyon AVA, at the far eastern reaches of the Santa Ynez Valley: Tyler Winery’s monopole, China Blue; McGinley Vineyard (formerly known as Westerly Vineyard, and host to the first plantings of Sauvignon Blanc in the appellation); and the Santa Ynez Vineyard—a 170 acre vineyard - planted to some 30 varieties - on a 1,000 acre conservation easement that will protect the natural beauty and viticultural legacy of this region for generations to come. Chamise shaley loam with serpentine cobbles. Neutral French oak and stainless steel.

92 Points - Vinous - *“Fabulous. Bright and nervy to the core, the 2023 is an absolute delight. Lime, crushed rocks, mint, sage and white pepper all race across the palate. This weightless, nervy Sauvignon Blanc from Lieu-Dit is irresistible.”*



2022/2023 Chenin Blanc, Santa Ynez

Sourced from our hillside lieu-dit at the Happy Canyon vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley, this block was grafted to Chenin Blanc clippings from the famed Jurassic Park Vineyard in 2015. Once pressed, the juice is then tank fermented using only native yeast. We then transfer to neutral oak barrels for the winter to help build texture and structure while maintaining freshness. The wine is then racked back to a stainless tank prior to bottling in the spring resulting in a fresh, mouthwatering wine.

92 Points - '22 Vinous – *“Deep and textured. Pear, chamomile, dried herbs, menthol, sage and earthy notes all grace this super-expressive, immensely satisfying Chenin. All the elements are very nicely balanced.”*



2022 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. Once malo is complete, we transfer to tank prior to bottling in late spring.

93 Points – Vinous – *“The 2022 Cabernet Franc screams with varietal character. Strong floral and savory notes meld into a core of red/purplish fruit in this layered, vibrant red. There’s a bit of tannic drive here that needs time to soften, but then again that is Franc. This is a very pretty wine in a hugely challenging year.”*