

# Château Unang (organic) Ventoux



## The Wines

- *Ventoux rosé*: A classically dry and elegant rosé via direct press (ie, not *saignée* method), and one with welcome freshness from its high-elevation origins. Unfortunately, the domaine only makes about 5,000 bottles in a given year, so get this while you can! From Cinsault (roughly 40%), Grenache (30%+/-) and Syrah (30%+/-).
- *Vin de France Cinsault*: From a 1.5 acre parcel James planted in 2005 at mid-slope, east facing, in sandy soils over limestone bedrock. A long, gentle maceration in steel, followed by élevage in steel. Production averages 1,500 bottles or 125 cases.

Notes from the field:

*Punchy, Gamay du sud nose, with ripe, brambly berries. Round, juicy attack and cool, refreshing midpalate feel. Cherries and spice cake. Backend is delicate with a saline, mouthwatering mineral kiss that makes it so much more than just a gulper. What a cool tension between frontend juice and backend lift!*

- *Ventoux rouge*: This is wine from the broad ring of hills wrapping a half-moon around the plain of Carpentras, i.e., the true Ventoux. Unang's is a wine of terrific character at a refreshing price. Grenache with roughly 30% Syrah and 10% Cinsault, this is clearly a wine of calcareous, high elevation soils, one with real elegance and breed. All raised in tank so this is pure fruit; production averages 2,500 cases.
- *Ventoux "La Source"*: Roughly 70% Syrah, 25% Grenache, and 5% Cinsault. La Source refers to the natural spring that comes out of Unang's hill top--literally channeled through the house itself and no doubt used as the household water supply for ages, and which is so loaded with calcium that James has to yearly take a hammer to the deposit buildup coming out of the fountain in front of the house. This is the Syrah cuvée, and comes from vines growing at 300 meters in the domaine's most clay-rich soils and is surrounded by oak and pine forests. Just over half the wine is raised in older barrels for one year. Production averages 850 cases.
- *Ventoux "La Croix"*: The flagship of the domaine, made only in the best years from a vineyard selection of less than five acres. These are the highest plantings, just under the summit of the hill, where the topsoil can be a mere eight inches deep before hitting limestone bedrock. The wine is deep and long, with a marked overlay of stone in the aromatics, and impressively elegant for its weight and structure. Around 80% is aged in *demi-muids*, 20% or so of which are new. Production averages 600 cases. Blend is similar to the classique above, but with less Grenache and more Syrah.