

Kalin Cellars Cuvee W Livermore Valley Chardonnay 1995

John Gilman 94 points “The 1995 vintage of Cuvee W chardonnay from Terry and Frances Leighton is the most exotic and perfumed vintage of this bottling that I have ever had the pleasure to taste. The beautifully musky nose soars from the glass in a blend of fresh apricot, Passion fruit, musky floral tones, orange peel, a beautiful base of soil tones and a touch of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and vibrant, with a great core, outstanding focus and balance, excellent acidity and fine grip on the very long and complex finish. While this has plenty of secondary layers of complexity and is wide open in personality, it is also built to age and will continue to drink beautifully for at least another fifteen years. Great juice. 2015-2030+.” JG

Kalin Cellars Livermore Valley Sauvignon Blanc Reserve, Stealth Cuvée 2001

John Gilman 93 points “This is the first vintage that I have tasted from the new source of decidedly old vine sauvignon blanc that the Leightons have begun to work with in the Livermore Valley. This is from a parcel of one hundred year-old vines and the 2001 is a superb wine that is now at its apogee of peak maturity. The wine is now nicely honeyed in color and offers up a beautiful and very complex nose of tangerine, a touch of petrol, a lovely walnut-like nuttiness, citrus peel, gentle notes of beeswax and a very complex base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, complex and rock solid at the core, with bright acids, excellent focus and grip and a long, mature and vibrant finish. A beautiful bottle of mature sauvignon blanc that would make a great ringer in a mature white Bordeaux tasting! 2015-2030.” JG

95 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

“ The 20-year-old 1995 Chardonnay Cuvee W that’s just being released is from the Old Wente clone and, again, 100% from the Wente Estate Vineyard. This was aged for ten months in French oak, of which 50% was new, and bottled without filtration in 1996. Now, 19 years later, Terry Leighton is releasing it. The color is suspiciously dark gold, which at first brings up the specter of oxidation, but the wine is not the least bit “old.” It is fresh, lively and explodes on the mouth with fresh white currants, quince, honeysuckle, buttery brioche, white peach and tropical fruits. The wine looks bizarre, but tastes great, and in many ways reflects its eccentric owner. This is a full-bodied wine with great acidity, and only fate knows how much longer it will last, but I suspect it’s got at least another decade in it. Leave it to idiosyncratic and contrarian winemaker and owner of Kalin Cellars, Terry Leighton, to be the sole person in California to release wines after “only” 14 years in the case of the Sauvignon Blanc, and 20 years in the case of the Chardonnay! His wines have incredible aging potential, and I’ve got many an old vintage of Kalin in my cellars – the Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir – to attest to their ageability. ”(10/2015)

93 points Robert Parker's Wine Advocate

“ The 2001 Sauvignon Blanc Reserve is a blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon, all from the Wente Estate in Livermore Valley. Leighton has been excelling with this wine for decades, and the 2001, at age 14, is an incredibly fresh, exuberant wine, with beautiful caramelized citrus, honeysuckle, lanolin, medium to full body, great acidity and a long, heady finish. This is a gorgeous wine that was bottled without filtration after aging sur lie in French oak, of which 50% was new. It will certainly last for at least another decade or more. ” - Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com