



**Aurelio Montes Jr.**  
**Chief Winemaker, Kaiken Wines**



Within families, it is said some traits skip a generation. Thankfully, when it comes to expertise in winemaking, the Montes family has kept the tradition going. Growing up during the Chilean wine revolution admiring his father's influence within and passion for the wine industry, you could say **Aurelio Montes Jr.'s** curiosity and talent was predestined to be rooted in the vines.

Since his youth, Aurelio had a fascination with growing fruits and studying soil and was leaning toward a career in agriculture. While attending university at home in Chile he studied that subject, as well as winemaking, and ended up catching the industry bug. He began honing his skills at home, and later decided to spend time travelling and working in a variety of vineyards throughout the world to evolve his signature style and enhance his technique. Aurelio visited more than 40 countries and worked closely with several wineries within prestigious regions such as Napa Valley, Burgundy, Australia and neighboring Argentina. These experiences amply prepared him to take over the reins from his father when the family business crossed the border from Chile to Argentina - creating **KAIKEN Wines**, based in Mendoza.

Today, as chief winemaker for the brand, Aurelio is determined to further his fathers' focus on producing the best Argentine Malbec. He is focused on cultivating and showcasing the true expression of varieties grown in distinctive terroir within and outside of Mendoza in a leaner, more elegant style. His ambitious plans for ensuring success through the expansion of KAIKEN Wines include exploring new areas and varieties beyond Malbec. When it comes down to it, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Aurelio Montes Jr. currently resides with his wife and two children in Mendoza close to Bodega KAIKEN.