



The Wine Press

Medal Winning Wines from California's Best Family-Owned Wineries.

EX WINES - WRATH WINES
SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS, MONTEREY COUNTY



EX Wines

From the same people behind Monterey County's Wrath Wines comes EX Wines, an ultra-boutique brand crafting limited, site-driven wines from the esteemed San Saba Vineyard in Santa Lucia Highlands.



Wrath Wines, one of Santa Lucia Highlands' most celebrated boutique wineries, is proud to announce the recent launch of 'EX Wines,' an updated name for their popular 'Ex Amina' series. With a name meaning 'out of' in Latin, EX speaks to the team's focus on expressing the personality and characteristics of their certified sustainable estate vineyard, the San Saba Vineyard in Santa Lucia Highlands. These EX wines are an excellent value and held to the same high quality standards as the esteemed Wrath wines produced from the same site.

Located on the River Road Wine Trail in Northern Monterey County, the darlingly different Wrath Wines/EX Wines estate was established in 2007 by Dr. Michael Thomas and his mother Barbara Lemmon. After purchasing the old San Saba Vineyards property, they set out to dramatically change the estate's wine and viticulture program to produce terroir-inspired wines with attitude and passion. Now thirteen years later, their wines are topping critics' lists and *Decanter* even named the entity one of the **Top 10 Central Coast Wineries**.

Michael Thomas found his way into the winery business in a most interesting way. After earning a PhD in Classical Art and Archeology from the University of Texas, Michael spent time in Italy exploring the cultures of the Etruscans and Romans. Over the past twenty years, he has lived on and off in Rome running archaeology excavations in Pompeii and Florence - Michael and his team actually uncovered the first known wine importing/exporting business operating at the time of Vesuvius' explosion! Michael has also taught at several universities, including the University of Texas at Austin, where he currently directs the Center for the Study of Ancient Italy (CSAI).

While in Italy, Michael spent his free time discovering markets and wine shops in the quaint hillside villages. He naturally came to appreciate the art of Italian wine, and combining this passion with his years of working with soil as an archaeologist, he decided that joining the wine business was an appropriate direction.

Michael saw many similarities between the rural and fertile Santa Lucia Highlands and the dramatic countryside of Italy, so when the opportunity arose to purchase the 72-acre San Saba estate, he jumped at the chance.

Michael worked closely with viticulturist Steve McIntyre to aggressively rejuvenate the old property by replanting large sections of the vineyard and implementing a SIP certified sustainable farming program. He also hired an all-star winemaking team, including Sabine Rodems and consultant Byron Kosuge, to craft the estate wines.

To complement his high-end Wrath Wines, Michael started the EX Wines brand (initially named Ex Amina) in to craft more value-driven offerings from his award-winning San Saba Vineyard estate (Ex Anima was renamed 'EX' in 2016). These wines have proven to be very successful additions to the Wrath Wines family, offering a true barometer of the quality and soul of their estate fruit. We hope you enjoy the award-winning selections for this month's EX Wines feature.

Sabrine Rodems, Winemaker

One of Monterey's most innovative young winemakers, Sabine Rodems is the talented winemaker behind the Wrath Wines/EX Wines brands. Sabine began working at San Saba Vineyards in 2004 and was promoted to winemaker in 2006. When the property was purchased and renamed 'Wrath Wines' in 2007, she and Michael Thomas developed a more rigorous farming standard and new, experimental winemaking methods that have proven to be very successful.

Sabrine has also gained winemaking experience working for Ventana Winery, Kori Wines, and her own brand, Scratch Wines. She has a masters in viticulture and enology from UC Davis and completed an internship at Gloria Ferrer Winery. Sabine is also behind the group Wines of Danger, which comprises growers who have launched their own small brands, winemakers who had worked for others but are now starting their own projects, and individuals who have started a second career in winemaking after leaving an unrelated field.



Featured Gold Club Wines



EX 2017 Pinot Noir, Monterey County

1,411 cases produced

The EX 2017 Pinot Noir offers a true expression of the quality and soul of the San Saba Estate Vineyard in Monterey's Santa Lucia Highlands. For a wine that sees minimal new oak, this Pinot Noir is incredibly rich and expansive, showing off the personality and characteristics of this special site. This wine is bright and energetic with cherry and red berry flavors that have undertones of earth and fresh minerality. Aromas of rusty cherries and sagebrush round out this smooth, silky and well balanced Pinot Noir. Aged in French oak. 100% Pinot Noir. Enjoy!

91 POINTS - *Planet Grape*



Food Pairing:
PORK SAUSAGES
WITH CANNELLINI

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes



EX 2018 Unoaked Chardonnay, Monterey County

1,311 cases produced

The EX 2018 Unoaked Chardonnay comes from the original 35 year-old vines planted on the San Saba Estate Vineyard. This wine sees zero oak and is fermented and aged only in stainless steel tanks, allowing the naturally bright and direct flavors and aromas to be properly displayed. On the nose, subtle aromas of tropical fruit balance the deceptively rich flavors of guava, banana and green apple. There is a noticeable yet well balanced splash of acidity and a full mouthfeel that leads into a long and refreshing finish. Aged 3 months in stainless steel. 100% Chardonnay. Enjoy!

89 POINTS - *Wine Enthusiast magazine*



Food Pairing:
LEMONGRASS
BISQUE

GoldMedalWineClub.com/Recipes

HOW WE CHOOSE OUR WINES:

Gold Medal Wine Club showcases exceptional wines from only the best small wineries of California. Featured wines include those which have earned medals in the top wine-industry competitions or have been highly rated by a respected national wine publication (see goldmedalwineclub.com/resources/wine-ratings). On occasion, we feature wines which are newly released by the winery and which medals and reviews are forthcoming. Each and every selection is a superb wine made in small quantities and with very limited distribution. There are over 4,000 wineries in California producing thousands of different wines. Only wines fitting the above criteria are considered in choosing the featured selections each month.

Add a *Plus!* Bottle to your next wine delivery

\$18-\$22 per delivery

The *Plus!* Program automatically adds on one special wine to each regularly scheduled wine delivery, or as often as you like! *Plus!* wines are all highly-rated, very small production wines with availability too limited for all regular club members to receive. For more information, visit: GoldMedalWineClub.com/plus

This month's Gold *Plus!* Featured Wine:

Trinitas 2015 'Mysteriama' Red Wine, California

97 Points + Best of Class
+ Double Gold Medal

- *Sunset Intl. Wine Competition*





Wine Wingard: Test Your Wine IQ



1. Why are clay vessels making a comeback for fermenting and aging?

Clay vessels (amphora, tinaja, and dolium) have been used to ferment and age wine since ancient times. In fact, Neolithic Age wine vessels recently found in the Republic of Georgia were tested and confirmed to be the world's oldest (around 6,000 years old). Beyond the romanticism involved in borrowing ancient techniques, terracotta pots offer unique properties with wine - they pull out acidity, allow oxygen exchange, and provide superior insulation, among other benefits (that are different from those of stainless steel, wood barrels, or concrete). These factors are capturing the attention of winemakers around the world and encouraging new experimentation. They are finding that, in a way, clay can be thought of as a middle ground between steel and oak - steel allows an oxygen-free environment and doesn't impart any flavors into the wine, while oak allows for ample oxygen to reach the wine and the wood's tannins can also affect the aromas and flavors of the wine. Clay is porous, so like oak, it does allow for some oxygen to pass through, giving wine a deep and rich texture, but since it's a neutral material like steel, it won't impart any additional flavors on the wine. It's unique properties make it an appealing new winemaking method that's popping up all over the world.



2. What determines the start of harvest season?

It is the moment the entire year's efforts have led up to - harvest season! But how do winemakers determine the ideal time to pick grapes? It starts with a process called veraison, and during this stage, the fruit transforms from small, green, hard berries into what we recognize as grapes with more mature hues of translucent gold for whites and purple-ruby tones for reds. The grapes also become softer during this stage and increase in size. As harvest draws near, winemakers will closely monitor their vines daily, checking Brix (a measurement of sugar in the grapes), and gauge the overall balance between the sugars, acidity and tannins and determine when it's go-time. Weather also plays a critical role, as heat waves or rain showers can cause the vineyard crew to move up or postpone picking time, and some grapes require more time to mature and are picked later in the season.



Gold Medal Wine Store



INSTANT Membership Rewards Pricing*

Save 16% to 36% off Winery Retail Prices

EX Wines	Winery Retail Price	Gold Medal Membership Rewards Pricing*			
		2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.	
EX 2017 Pinot Noir, Monterey County	\$29.00/btl.	2-Bottle Members:	\$24.00	\$22.33	\$21.50
		4-Bottle Members:	\$24.00	\$21.50	\$20.25
EX 2018 Unoaked Chardonnay, Monterey County	\$19.00/btl.	2-Bottle Members:	\$15.98	\$14.31	\$13.48
		4-Bottle Members:	\$15.98	\$13.48	\$12.23

*Effective per bottle prices after Membership Rewards discount is applied at checkout.

Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included in above prices. Membership Rewards does not apply to Sale or Special-Offer Wines.