

# Garagiste

## SERIES

[gar-uh-zheest'] noun - A French term used to describe independent, artisan winemakers crafting small batches of wine in garage-type settings and not yet discovered by the mainstream.

## Samuel Louis Smith

Owner/Winemaker: Sam Smith

Location: Salinas, California

Established in 2014, Samuel Louis Smith is a micro-winery based in Salinas, California. Owner/winemaker Sam Smith crafts limited amounts of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Syrah from some of the coolest and most compelling terroirs of the Central Coast, including Sta. Rita Hills, Monterey, and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Within each region, he seeks out the most distinctive sustainably-farmed vineyard sites to ensure his wines are expressive, unique, and delicious.

Sam Smith was captivated by vineyards from a very young age, spending many weekends cycling on California's Central Coast with his father. Years later, Sam attended UC Santa Barbara and studied French, Spanish and Economics, for an intended career in international business. He had a nagging desire for wine knowledge, however, which led him to a semester abroad in Bordeaux in 2009 - the perfect place to study French and economics while also embracing the world-renowned wine country - plus, there was proximity to good surf. The time in France quickly changed Sam's focus from business to wine, as his eyes truly opened to the world of wine. A tour and tasting at Chateau Lynch-Bages, and a pairing of confit de canard with '89 Margaux are poignant memories for Sam that solidified his future direction and passion.

Upon returning to California, Sam jumped head first into the wine industry, working harvests in Santa Barbara, Australia, the Willamette Valley, and the Northern Rhone. He also worked as the assistant winemaker for Margerum Wine Company (Santa Barbara) for three years, where his palate and California's cool Central Coast terroir became a match made in heaven. Sam has since been especially drawn to cool-climate winegrowing and producing food friendly wines with character and structure. Along the way, Sam also completed the prestigious UC Davis Extension winemaking program which supported his hands-on experience.

When Sam Smith founded Samuel Louis Smith Wines in 2014, he originally focused on the Sta. Rita Hills, but the brand has shifted its focus to craft Chardonnay from Sta. Rita Hills, Pinot Noir from Monterey, and Syrah from the Santa Cruz Mountains. It is Sam's goal to achieve unmanipulated elegance, balance, and freshness in each of his limited production wines, allowing the terroir of each vineyard to shine through. The watercolor paintings, found in black and white on the Samuel Louis Smith wine labels, are Sam's originals.

Sam Smith is also the head winemaker at the historic Morgan Winery, a pioneer of organic viticulture and traditional winemaking in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA.

*Samuel Louis Smith 2017 'Sandstone Terrace' Syrah* 146 cases produced  
Santa Cruz Mountains, California

Samuel Louis Smith's 2007 'Sandstone Terrace' Syrah is a cuvée from Corralitos in the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. The name 'Sandstone Terrace' refers to the geology that makes the area special - underneath the clay and sandy clay loam soils that characterize much of the southern Santa Cruz Mountains is a bed of weathered sandstone, mudstone and shale. These soils were formed on ancient submarine terraces, and their close proximity to the coast gives the wine its classy, cool-climate Syrah character. Dark purple in color, this Syrah opens with piercing aromas of blueberry, lavender, cinnamon and thyme, followed by full-bodied flavors of purple fruits and potpourri and soft, fine-grained tannins. A beautiful wine! Aged 10 months in oak. Enjoy!

Gold Medal Wine Club Price: \$29.00 / bottle

To order, visit the Wine Store at [GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://GoldMedalWineClub.com) or call 1-800-266-8888

\*2 bottle minimum per wine, per order. Shipping and tax (if applicable) not included. Call for details.

