



Platinum Wine Club

90+ Rated, Ultra Premium, Collectable Wines from California's Best Winemakers.

Wrath Vineyard | Santa Lucia Highlands AVA

What does a prominent international Archeologist do to satisfy his passion for fine wines and great foods?

Quite naturally, he teams with his mother and purchases the old San Saba property in the much-respected Santa Lucia Highlands AVA and renames the new operation Wrath Wines.

Wrath Wines? According to Dr. Michael Thomas, co-owner of Wrath Wines, "Wrath is in the wall of maritime fog that rolls into the Salinas Valley and the relentless afternoon winds that scream through our grape trellises." He also uses the terms "unstoppable anger, edgy power, raw wails and violent splatters of paint," to describe the meaning of wrath. It is Thomas' feeling that the wrath of nature in producing grapes and the wrath of the creative process utilized during the winemaking process are somehow inexorably linked in his winery.

To be sure, Dr. Michael Thomas is an esteemed Archeologist who has plied his trade in Italy exploring the cultures of the Etruscans and Romans. It is also the environment where he first developed his interest in wine. In addition to Archeology, Thomas is a teacher and currently serves as the director for the Center for the Study of Ancient Italy at the University of Texas at Austin. He also runs two excavations in Italy: A Roman site (The Oplontis Project) near Pompeii and an Etruscan site (Poggio Colla) northeast of Florence.

In late 2007, an opportunity arose to purchase San Saba Vineyards and Thomas and his mother, Barbara, made the decision to enter the wine business. At the time, Thomas noted the many similarities between the rural and fertile Salinas Valley and the dramatic countryside of Italy. He immediately replanted large sections of the 60-acre estate vineyard with Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Syrah, which are his favorite varieties.

Incredibly, it only took two years for the first Wrath Wines to begin racking (literally) numerous international awards and acclaim from the wine industry. An unusually large

number of 90+ scores followed and has continued unabated since 2009.

Like most successful winery operations of today, Michael Thomas had great foresight in putting together a top flight team to produce the wines. He retained grower Steve McIntyre to oversee the vineyards and replant the existing vines. McIntyre was named the 2103 Grower of the Year by the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

Another noted winemaker, Byron Kosuge, serves as a consultant to winemaker Sabine Rodems, who, herself holds a Master's of Science in Viticulture and Enology from the noted University of California Davis. Rodems was already the winemaker (since 2004) for the former owners of San Saba Vineyards and Michael Thomas liked what he tasted and appreciated the wines she had made. She was offered the winemaker job for Wrath Wines and has never looked back. Her record and scores (including international competitions and periodicals) attest to her vinification abilities.

The estate vineyard of Wrath Wines is sustainably certified and considered a cutting-edge winery among wine insiders. The term terroir-driven is one that fits Wrath Wines and its capricious owner, Michael Thomas, to the proverbial 'T'.

The San Saba Estate Vineyard elicits praise from both Winemaker Sabine Rodems and owner Michael Thomas. "This vineyard is set in a sheltered nook just below the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. We have preserved our ecosystem through our sustainable farming program," added Rodems.

One of the winery's Pinot Noirs was selected by wine educator Karen MacNeil (author of *The Wine Bible*) as one of only 12 presented to the Canadian Wine Industry as the Best of California Pinots.

Michael Thomas and his staff have bridged the rigors of the wine industry and Wrath Wines has become a leading producer of ultra-quality wines.





93 POINTS,
Editors Choice

— *Wine Enthusiast*

90 POINTS

— *Wine Spectator*

The Syrah grapes from the Estate Vineyard at Wrath Wines is a prime example of this foundation varietal of the Rhône Valley. The vineyard is part of the esteemed Santa Lucia Highlands AVA, some 30 miles south of the City of Monterey. Dark color and brooding aromatics are characteristic of Syrah and for the featured wine in particular. It possesses some pepper and high toned aromatics that usually accompany Syrahs that are grown in colder regions. The palate is gratified with ripe fruit and the thickness normally associated with warmer growing sites. This is the bridge wine between the two and is very big, very opulent and will age gracefully for the next few years. 100% Syrah. Aged for 10 months in French oak.

147 Cases Produced

Enjoy now until 2020



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This month's Platinum Plus!
Featured Wine:

Aaron 2013
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92 Points – *Wine Advocate*
278 cases produced

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