

GOLD MEDAL  
WINE CLUB'S

# Pinot Noir Press



v09i07



## WRATH WINES

An archaeologist blends his passion for wine and dirt to establish a terroir-driven winery based in the rolling hills of California's Santa Lucia Highlands.



Located on the River Road Wine Trail in Northern Monterey County, the darlingsly different Wrath Wines estate produces small lots of site-driven wines from their sustainably certified estate vineyard and other respected properties within the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA. This cutting edge winery was founded in 2007 by Dr. Michael Thomas and his mother Barbara Lemmon when they purchased 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 nine years later, their wines are topping critics' lists and *Wine Spectator* has named the operation 'A Winery to Watch.'

Michael Thomas found his way into the winery business in a most interesting way. After earning a PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Texas, Michael spent time in Italy exploring the cultures of the Etruscans and Romans. Over the past (nearly) twenty years, he has lived on and off in Rome running archaeology excavations in Pompeii and Florence. 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 the hidden restaurants,

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 Byron Kosuge, to craft the Wrath wines.

The name for Michael's winery was inspired by both the 'wrath' of nature and the 'wrath' of the creative process that winemakers must have when crafting wine. The inaugural 2007 vintage was met with four 90+ scores, fast-tracking this newcomer winery to become one of the hottest upper-echelon boutique producers in the region.

When away from the winery, Michael maintains an archaeology research position in Texas and escapes to Italy with his wife and children any chance he gets.

## ABOUT THE WINEMAKER



One of Monterey's most innovative young winemakers, Sabrina Rodems is the talented winemaker behind the Wrath Wines brand. Sabrina began working at San Saba Vineyards in June of 2004 and was promoted to winemaker in March of 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. Sabrina 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.

## WRATH 2012 BOEKENOOGEN VINEYARD PINOT NOIR

Produced from the certified sustainable, high-altitude Boekenooogen Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands, the Wrath 2012 Pinot Noir offers classic elegance and complexity. The wine's profile blends rose petal, raspberry, and plum with hints of underbrush, mint and dried sage. Rich and energetic on the palate, this Pinot Noir combines bright acidity with velvety layers of red fruit that comes together seamlessly. Aged in oak. 100% Pinot Noir.

Cases Produced: 282

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## RECIPES FOR PAIRING

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APPLE JUICE-BRINED PORK CHOPS



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### Wrath 2012 Pinot Noir

Boekenooogen Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands

*Save 14% - 26% off the Winery Retail Price (\$49.00/btl)*

	2+ btls.	6+ btls.	12+ btls.
2-Bottle Members:	\$42.00	\$40.33	<b>\$39.50</b>
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[GoldMedalWineClub.com](http://GoldMedalWineClub.com)

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