

## CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST

### KUNIN SANTA BARBARA



**OVERVIEW** | Kunin Wines was founded in 1998 with wine production growing annually from 400 cases to a current 5,800 cases. Consistent with the dedicated philosophy of its winemaker Seth Kunin, Kunin remains a boutique producer of high quality premium wines made with grapes purchased from the finest vineyards of the heralded Central Coast region of California. After several years in the restaurant business, Seth became armed with dangerous amounts of knowledge and understanding and developed an undeniable passion for making wine. Fortunately his established relationships led him to his first position in the wine industry, working harvest in the cellars of Gainey Vineyard, located in the Santa Ynez Valley. He also spent time working at the Dusi vineyard before starting his own label. The Kunin Wines brand has developed an uncompromising commitment to produce consistent, premium wines, which have been awarded and recognized since inception by foremost industry publications and rating notables such as Robert M. Parker Jr. and the Wine Advocate, the Wine Spectator, and the Wine Enthusiast.

**VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES** | “Manipulations, adjustment and the judicious use of oak barrels may occur in the cellar, but should not push the character of the grapes and vineyards to the back seat. All too often I taste wine that has been manipulated to within an inch of its life in a desperate effort to make predictable wine based on marketing surveys or last year’s successful sales. This is totally the opposite of what I think winemaking (and, therefore, wine drinking) is all about. If one is to completely experience and enjoy a wine from a particular region, then the nuances of that region are part of the drinking experience. If the weather was a bit warmer one year, and the wine from that vintage shows more ripe fruit and less acid, then this is an accurate representation of the fruit and its terroir. If the next vintage is cooler, with more earthy flavors and tart acidity, then so be it. That is what Mother Nature intended for you to taste. The process should not be blurred by invasive winemaking techniques.

“Well, you might ask, what if the weather is awful and the vintage is terrible? In this situation, many winemakers may try to manipulate the wine to make it more palatable and consistent. I believe even during terrible vintages, there are great grapes grown. But, these grapes can only be found at great sites, and even then, only in small quantities. So, the way to make good wine in a bad vintage is to “source and sort” – source your grapes from the best vineyards, then sort through them, using only the best of the lot. Unfortunately, the best vineyards don’t always have enough grapes (which is part of why they are the best), and the weather doesn’t always seem to cooperate, so it is a fact of life for me that Kunin Wines will always be small, and that our production of various wines from different vineyards may fluctuate from vintage to vintage. By staying small and letting vineyard and vintage quality dictate production levels, Kunin Wines will always be able to make the best wines possible from the best grapes available, year after year.” - Seth Kunin

**WINES** | **Pape Star** - This wine was inspired by the wines of Chateaufeuf- du-Pape. The grenache-based blends from this region are honest yet complex wines that are representative of their origins. They can be consumed young or old and still maintain a sense of elegance. Most basic cuvees there are aged in large barrels, and no new oak is used in their production – all of the casks are neutral. With Pape Star, Seth is trying to create a new-world version of this style, with old-world sensibilities. Mostly grenache, with mourvedre and syrah. Barrel aged in neutral oak for 10 months.

**Zinfandel** - A fruit-forward zinfandel, made from a blend of several Paso vineyards (all cooler climate; yielding more red fruit flavors and slightly brighter acidity). 25% new oak, French & American, barrel aged for 10 months.



## triage wines

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