

2019 Zaca Mesa Z Cuvee Santa Ynez Valley, USA

TRADE OFFER

\$8

per bottle

12-bottle case \$96 · Winery SRP \$30 · One-case minimum

TOP SELLING POINTS

Kristin has run this cellar since 2016.

Kristin Bryden grew up in Redding, took a Food Science degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and fell into harvest work at Wild Horse with no plan to make wine. Lockwood Vineyard in Monterey County taught her estate programs. She joined Zaca Mesa as assistant winemaker in 2011 and became head winemaker in 2016. She still farms and ferments the same Foxen Canyon site.

The third winery in Santa Barbara County. The first Syrah.

John Cushman and five friends founded Zaca Mesa in 1973. Ken Brown planted Syrah here in 1978, the first in the county. The 1993 Syrah hit Wine Spectator's Top Ten. Since 1997 the house has been Rhone-first. Staff still call it Zaca University: Jim Clendenen, Bob Lindquist, and Ken Brown all passed through. Z Cuvee has been the food-friendly GSM since 1992. This 2019 is Mourvedre on top, not a Grenache shout.

PRESS

94 Wine Enthusiast

KRISTIN BRYDEN

Head winemaker since 2016 · Cal Poly Food Science · estate Rhone from Foxen Canyon

Kristin is from Redding. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Food Science. Her first harvest job was Wild Horse in Templeton. She has said she did not drink wine when she started and did not know Pinot from Cabernet. Harvest hours paid the San Luis Obispo rent. The work stuck. Lockwood Vineyard, a 1,650-acre estate in Monterey County, is where she learned to watch vines through a full season. That is the draw she names for Zaca Mesa: an estate program in Santa Barbara County, 25 miles from the Pacific, 1,300 to 1,600 feet on Foxen Canyon Road. She joined as assistant winemaker in 2011 and took the keys in 2016. The 2019 Z Cuvee is her wine: 57 percent Mourvedre, 29 Grenache, 11 Syrah, 3 Cinsault, 15 months in neutral oak, from Mesa, Cushman, Chapel, and Mariposa. Traditional, artisanal, estate fruit.

2019 IN THE GLASS

The winery's 2019 note: Mourvedre-dominant, rustic charm with refined elegance. Nose of red currant, white pepper, cinnamon shavings, and anise. Palate of supple tannins and a lift of acidity. Finish of ripe blueberry and boysenberry, dark fruit with a touch of earth. 57 percent Mourvedre, 29 Grenache, 11 Syrah, 3 Cinsault. 15 months in neutral oak. Matt Kettmann (Wine Enthusiast, 94, Editors' Choice) found black cherry, purple-flower potpourri, tar, and dried meat, then a zesty palate of black raspberry, boysenberry, and white pepper, still amazingly fresh six years on. Those are critic notes, not the Wine-Searcher aggregate of 92. Drink it now. It does not need a long decant.

57% Mourvedre, 29% Grenache, 11% Syrah, 3% Cinsault · Santa Ynez Valley estate · 15 months neutral oak · 14.6% alcohol · Mesa, Cushman, Chapel, Mariposa

PAIRING AND SERVICE

Rosemary rack of lamb or loin chops · Dry-rub pork ribs with thyme and sage · Smoked Gouda, or lentil stew with smoked paprika

Serve around 60 to 64 F in a Rhone stem. Taste on opening. Twenty minutes in the glass is enough. A long decant is not required.

WINE-SEARCHER MARKET

Score 92 Low \$13.55 Average \$25.74 High \$29.81

Checked 2026-09-02 · U.S. bottle listings · Buying context, not a required resale



ORDER THIS CASE

Put Z Cuvee on the list.

\$8 a bottle · \$96 the 12-bottle case · One-case minimum

<https://onewinemarket.com/2019-zaca-mesa-z-cuvee-santa-ynez-valley-usa/>

Trade offer. One-case minimum. Orders are subject to account review.