



vinous

SANTA LUCIA HIGHLANDS 2015 THE GRAPES OF A WRATHFUL VINTAGE



One of the most admirable characteristics of wines from the Santa Lucia Highlands, whether white or red, is the exuberant fruit that they exhibit pretty much all the way through their lives. On the red side, that goes for the small number of Syrahs made here as well as for Pinot Noirs. Fans of these wines know from experience that they tend to age gracefully, but it is the rare example that demands real patience. I suspect that both the white and red 2015s will age along a relatively slow arc thanks to their concentration, but I doubt that anybody who opens a bottle by accident or in a fit of itchy corkscrew syndrome will be stricken by guilt. In fact, I encourage people to try most of these wines soon after release so that they can experience their sheer, fruit-driven vivaciousness.

Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 95 points

Youthful purple. Highly perfumed black and blue fruit, potpourri, Indian spice and licorice scents. Sweet, seamless and pure, offering sappy black currant, cherry cola and spicecake flavors that expand with aeration. The marriage of power to delicacy here is fabulous. Picks up a smoky nuance on the impressively long finish, which shows excellent clarity and smooth, building tannins that lend shape and grip.

- Josh Raynolds