



## *Recently Tasted California Pinot Noir & Chardonnay*



### *Cattleya Wine Reviews. By Rusty Gaffney, The Prince of Pinot.*

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Proprietor and winemaker Bibiana González Rave is part of the latest wave of young and talented winemakers who are making their mark with California Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Born in Columbia and trained in France, she moved to California in 2007, gained experience at La Crema, Peay Vineyards, Au Bon Climat, Qupé and Lynmar before becoming the current winemaker for Wayfarer and Pahlmeyer as well as her limited-production label, Cattleya Wines. Her Cattleya wines are on my Top 10 list of exceptionality in California.

The small production wines are sold through a mailing list. Get on board and you will be very pleased. The winery's website is [www.cattleyawines.com](http://www.cattleyawines.com). The Cuvée Number One Pinot Noir is released and the Donum Vineyard Pinot Noir and Pratt Vineyard Chardonnay will be released in the fall 2018.

### *Cattleya Wines 2016 Pratt Vineyard Chardonnay*

Moderate golden yellow color in the glass. Spirited aromas of lemon zest, white peach, graphite and flint holding court for a long time in the glass. This is a spiritual wine with caressing refinement, offering flavors of lemon zest, yellow grapefruit, flint and subtle toast that drape the palate. The composure is seamless and the tight-wound acidity provides brightness and crispness. Every year, this beauty is one of my favorite California Chardonnays. Pratt Vineyard is an exceptional site for Chardonnay.

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**94  
points**

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### *Cattleya Wines 2016 Donum Vineyard Pinot Noir*

Moderate garnet color in the glass. Aromas of black raspberry, dried dark rose petal and spice are enticing. Deep, dark and mysterious, with a generous amount of sappy black fruits touched by oak and supported by sleek tannins. Very polished, with a sexy, plush texture, and finishing long and dry. A bit reserved upon opening, showing off more when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle.

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**94  
points**

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### *Cattleya Wines 2016 Cuvée Number One Pinot Noir*

Moderately dark garnet color in the glass. The nose elevates over time in the glass, reaching a crescendo with aromas of blackberry, cassis, spice, violets, vanilla and a hint of toasty oak. Mid weight plus in style, with an energetic attack of purple and black fruits with underpinnings of spice, earth and oak. Veers to ultra-ripeness but does not cross the line. The tannins are tucked in, the texture is refined and silky, and the finish is juicy. Still terrific when tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle.

**93  
points**

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