



JEB DUNNUCK



*Brilliance from
Sonoma*

Regional Report

Cattleya Wines Reviews
by Jeb Dunnuck

“Cattleya is the personal label of superstar winemaker Bibiana González Rave. Hailing from Medellín, Colombia, where she achieved a degree in chemical engineering (her father was an electrical engineer and her mother was in finance), Bibiana then earned a Technician of Viticulture and Oenology diploma in Angoulême, France, followed by a diploma of Oenology from the University of Bordeaux.

She worked harvests in Bordeaux – at none other than Château Haut-Brion – as well as with Stéphane Ogier in Côte Rôtie and Domaine du Devevey in Burgundy. In addition, she worked in South Africa and with the likes of Peay, Au Bon Climat, Qupé and Lynmar in California.”

Cattleya Wines 2016 Soberanes Vineyard Syrah

I think one of the best Syrahs coming out of California today is the Soberanes Vineyard from Bibiana. Sporting a vibrant purple color as well La Landonne-like notes of currants, bacon fat, white pepper, and cedar, the 2016 hits the palate with full-bodied richness, awesome purity of fruit, and a huge finish. More dry-aged beef and assorted meatiness develop with time in the glass, and while it was aged in 100% new French oak, it's absorbed every trace of it. It's an awesome Syrah to drink over the coming 10-15 years.

**98
points**

Cattleya Wines 2016 Pratt Vineyard Chardonnay

A sensational effort that reminds me of a great Chassagne-Montrachet, the 2016 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard comes from clone 15 and the old Wente clone, was harvested very late, and brought up all in new French oak. This awesome white boasts a stunning nose of caramelized citrus, toasted brioche, white flowers, and ripe orchard fruits. Deep, concentrated, yet with an overriding sense of purity and elegance, it has good acidity, building richness, and will knock your socks off over the coming decade or more.

**97
points**

Cattleya Wines 2016 Donum Vineyard Pinot Noir

From the oldest vines in the vineyard, the 2016 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard comes from a site in Carneros and spent 15 months in 65% new French oak. Beautiful black raspberry, sous bois, decayed flowers, and savory notes all flow to a medium to full-bodied, seamless Pinot Noir that has ripe tannin, a seamless texture, and a great, great finish. It's another world-class effort from this estate that will compete with the best out there.

**97
points**

Cattleya Wines 2016 Cuvée Number One Pinot Noir

From the cooler Green Valley portion of the Russian River (it's all from the Lakeview vineyard), the 2016 Pinot Noir Cuvée Number One comes from the Pommard and 115 clones and was brought up in a mix of new and used French oak. Beautiful red fruits, mulberries, flowers, and exotic spice notes, medium body, an elegant, yet rounded texture, and integrated acidity all emerge from this incredible Pinot Noir that has the class to drink nicely today, yet also evolve for a decade or more.

**95
points**
