



PinotFile
The First Wine Newsletter Exclusively Devoted to Pinotphiles

SIPS OF RECENTLY TASTED WINES

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Bibiana Gonzalez Rave is a rare person: a Colombian-born winemaker who trained in France and obtained a degree in Viticulture, a DNO of Enology from Bordeaux, and the experience of five harvests. She worked in Cote-Rotie, Alsace, Burgundy, Cognac and Bordeaux. While working in the Russian River Valley in 2004, she fell in love with Sonoma County. In California, she worked at La Crema, Peay Vineyards, Au Bon Climat, Qupe and Lynmar Estate where she was the winemaker from 2009 through the spring of 2012.

At the beginning of 2012, she formed her own consulting business for the wine industry known as RAVE Vines & Wines. She also started her own label, Cattleya Wines, and became the winemaker for Wayfarer (Pahlmeyer's Sonoma Coast vineyard). Cattleya is an orchid and the national flower of Columbia. The first release was a 2012 Pratt Vineyard Chardonnay followed by a Donum Vineyard Pinot Noir and Soberanes Vineyard Syrah in the fall of 2014.

Antonio Galloni has called Bibiana "One of the most talented young winemakers in the United States." I agree!

2013 Cattleya Wines Pratt Vineyard Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

14.5% alc., pH 3.38, TA 0.69, 101 cases, \$70. Pratt Vineyard is one of Sonoma County's premier Chardonnay vineyards, owned and farmed by Jim Pratt. The vineyard was planted in 2000, and this wine is sourced from 4 rows of clone 15 (Old Wente selection). Carefully hand sorted, gently pressed, native yeast fermented for 2 months, followed by 100% malolactic fermentation. Aged 15 months in 50% new French oak barrels. · Moderately light golden yellow color and clear in the glass. Welcoming aromas of lemon pudding, pineapple and vanilla creme. Creamy and delicious on the palate, with flavors of pear, kiwi and grilled pineapple augmented by hints of butterscotch and nutty oak, offering impressive fruit expression, and sliding off the palate with aplomb at the finish. So beautifully composed, one is tempted to drink it all night. Score: 96. Reviewed February 5, 2016

2014 Cattleya Pratt Vineyard Russian River Valley Chardonnay

14.2% alc., 100 cases, \$70. · Moderately light golden yellow color in the glass. A delightful wine that is very polished and hi-collar. Aromas of citrus, pear and spice carry over on the palate that adds integrated toasted oak flourishes and an acid-driven minerality that further elevates the wine. This wine has nothing out of place, is very easy to drink, and urges you to search for nuance. Score: 94. Reviewed January 16, 2017

2014 Cattleya Wines Cuvée Number One Russian River Valley Pinot Noir

14.2% alc., very limited, unreleased. Sourced from Lakeview Vineyard in the Green Valley of Russian River Valley. Pommard and Dijon 115. Named after the successful first of many blending trials between both clones. · Dark reddish purple color in the glass. Intoxicating aromas of black cherry, cassis and bark. Exceptionally refined in the mouth with a velvety texture, featuring mid weight flavors of black raspberry, blackberry and plum. Impeccable balance with involved but not intrusive fine-grain tannins. and an intensely endowed finish. A gregarious and toothsome wine that is meant to please. Score: 94. Reviewed February 5, 2016

2013 Cattleya Wines Donum Vineyard Sonoma Carneros Pinot Noir

14.2% alc., pH 3.58, TA 0.65, 88 cases, \$70. Roederer clone. 25% whole clusters. 5-day cold soak, fermented on the skins for 18 days, aged 11 months in French oak barrels, 50% new. Bottled unfinned and unfiltered. · Moderately dark reddish purple hue in the glass. Nicely perfumed, with aromas of black cherry, blackberry, pomegranate and a deft touch of oak. Structured and somewhat bold, with earth-kissed flavors of black cherry and blackberry. The firm but polished tannins are nicely balanced by a laser beam of acidity propelling the finish. A classy wine that is built to age, and a proper salute to Carneros terroir. Score: 93. Reviewed February 5,

2015 Alma de Cattleya Sonoma County Chardonnay

14.1% alc., \$24. Cellared and bottled by Cattleya Wines. A value-priced offering from Bibiana Gonzalez Rave, the winemaker for Wayfarer, Pahlmeyer and Cattleya. A low malolactic, lightly oaked style. · Light golden yellow color and clear in the glass. Aromas of lemon, pear, flint, petrol and buttered toast lead off. Light in style, with flavors of lemon, pineapple, golden apple and crusty bread. A polished, clean mouthfeel adds to the appeal. Score: 89. Reviewed March 6, 2017