



Cattleya 2013 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard

93 pts

Coming from a site in the Russian River Valley, the 2013 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard went completely through malolactic fermentation and spent 15 months in 50% new French oak. It offers a brilliantly defined, crisp and slightly Burgundian bouquet of white fruits, flowers, flinty minerality, honey and hints of toasted nuts. Ultra-pure, clean and crystalline on the palate, with racy acidity that stays nicely integrated, it has plenty of fruit, a balanced, layered texture and a great finish. It took the better part of the evening to open up and continues to show more and more cut and focus, and while beautiful now, it will be better in 1-2 years and keep for a decade after that.

One of the rising stars in California is Cattleya's Bibiana Gonzalez-Rave Pisoni, who in addition to making her own wines under the Cattleya label, handles the Sonoma releases for Pahlmeyer. For this report, I was able to taste her Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah, as well as two new wines: a '13 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard from Russian River Valley and her '13 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard from Carneros. All of the wines showed beautifully and her latest 2013s are some of the top wines I was able to taste for this report.

Drink: 2016-2026

- Jeb Dunnuck, Oct 2015



Cattleya 2013 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard

94 pts

From a vineyard in Carneros and not harvested until the middle of October, the 2013 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard is a thrilling Pinot Noir that doesn't put a foot wrong. Mostly destemmed (there were 35% whole clusters) and aged 11 months in 50% new French oak, its deeper violet/purple color is followed by sensational notes of black raspberries, crushed violets, wet rock, toasted spice and sage brush. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and beautifully textured and concentrated, it has impeccable purity, ripe tannin and ample, juicy acidity that shows on the palate and finish. It's good now in a youthful, vibrant style, but will be better with bottle age.

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Drink: 2018-2028

- Jeb Dunnuck, Oct 2015



Cattleya 2013 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard

94⁺ pts

Tasting more like a barrel sample than a finished wine, the 2013 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard sports an inky, glass staining purple color to go with decadent plums, black raspberries, liquid flower, olive and background meatiness. Rich, full-bodied, nicely concentrated and textured, with sensational purity and elegance in its tannin structure, it needs 2-3 years of cellaring and will drink well for a decade or more after that.

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Drink: 2017-2028

- Jeb Dunnuck, Oct 2015