



2023 CATTLEYA THE INITIATION SYRAH

THE VINEYARDS

The Soberanes Vineyard is located in the Santa Lucia Highlands appellation in Monterey County, amid the sandy loam soils, boasting significant sub-soil boulders layered into the alluvial fan. Meticulously farmed by the Pisoni & Franscioni families, the vines thrive in this cool site among foggy mornings and Pacific winds. The cold temperatures, the wind funneling from the Monterey Bay, and the perfect exposure of the rows to light make this site perfectly suited for Syrah. This wine is composed of Alban Clone 1, a selection massale from Côte Rôtie.

THE CRAFT

Each pristine cluster was hand harvested under cover of moonlight on November 6th as this wine began its journey from grape to bottle. 15% Whole cluster fruit is fermented with 100% indigenous yeast in stainless steel open top tanks. A ten day cold soak with daily punch downs help gently extract the wine's impressive color, tannin and flavor. The wine was transferred to 75% new French oak barrels, where malolactic fermentation then took place. After 16 months maturing in barrel, this wine made its final journey into bottle, where it now rests awaiting your initiation into the Santa Lucia Highlands. Bottling of this unfined and unfiltered Syrah took place February 11th of 2025.

THE TASTE

With its inky garnet core fading to a vibrant fuchsia edge, this cool climate Syrah exudes quiet luxury and refined elegance. The nose is layered and expressive, offering notes of pink peppercorn blossom, dark Santa Rosa plum, blackberry and delicate hyacinth. On the palate, the wine opens with restraint, gradually revealing nuanced layers of thyme, eucalyptus, black pepper and blueberry compote. Firm, youthful tannins and lively acidity provide balance and structure, promising a graceful evolution and continued refinement with time. Enjoy from now through 2050.

THE MEANING BEHIND THE NAME

Cattleya was born in 2011 with a single barrel of Syrah from the Soberanes Vineyard. It marked the beginning of my journey as the proprietor and winemaker of my own wine label. This site became my initiation -making wine from the variety I worked with so much in France, among the steep hillsides of the famed Cote-Rotie appellation in the Rhone Valley.

Aging | 16 Months, 80% New French Oak

Alc: | 14.2%

Case Production | 117

SRP | \$125

