



THE INITIATION

2022 CATTLEYA SYRAH

"Take the first step and be initiated"



THE VINEYARD SITE

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 and wind 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 September 28th as this wine began its journey from grape to bottle. A ten day cold soak preceded an additional 20 day primary fermentation. This wine's impressive color, tannin, and flavor was gently extracted through a combination of daily punch downs and pump overs until alcoholic fermentation was complete. Once dry, 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 this unfinned and unfiltered Syrah took place February 2nd of 2024.



THE TASTE

Inky purple at its rim with a brooding near black core, this wine reveals itself with notes of fresh blueberries, cassis, violets, and garrigue that gain in volume and concentration as the minutes pass. With time, brambly dark berries, dark chocolate, licorice, graphite and a hint of thyme and black sage open up and add to the complexity of this elegant expression of Syrah. The youthful acidity, density, and formidable structure suggests this wine will only improve as the years pass.

Cases produced: 99 (9L equivalent) | Alc. 14.1% | RS: 0.44 g/L | pH: 3.68 | TA: 5.7g/L | SRP: \$70

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.