



From: 2024 Santa Lucia Highlands: It's Complicated (May 2026)

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Bibiana González Rave's winemaking is rock steady. Though the 2024 SLH Syrahs are less dazzling than some past editions, that is merely the character of the vintage as opposed to a reflection of choices in the vineyards and winery. The 2024 Pinot Noir and Chardonnay bottlings from Sonoma County feel more complete and dynamic at this stage.





2024 CATTLEYA
CHARDONNAY
Sonoma Coast

The 2024 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast) is a blend of Sunchase and Nightwing. It's crystal clear, precise and just rich enough to give you something to grab onto.

Floral-inflected pear, orange peel and nutmeg lead to a tinge of tropicality that lends a bit of exoticism.

This is beautifully open-knit and expressive today.

93
POINTS

2024 CATTLEYA
BELLY OF THE WHALE
Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

Sourced from Sun Chase Vineyard, the 2024 Pinot Noir Belly of the Whale is the highlight of the Cattleya range this year. It delivers Bibiana González Rave's hallmark juxtaposition of bright acids against rich vintage-2024 fruit, all wrapped together in a mid-weight, precise frame. Black cherry, kirsch, blood orange and wild herbs give the 2024 a feeling of exoticism, but it remains balanced from start to finish. A lovely effort.

94
POINTS



2024 CATTLEYA
PINOT NOIR
Sonoma Coast

The 2024 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast) is approachable and balanced, but also pretty tight at this stage. Liqueur-like notes of dark cherry fruit, turned earth and amaro-like savory herbs lead to chalky tannins that pull taut on the finish. This is a fine entry-level Pinot Noir, more drinkable and less complex than usual, but delicious nonetheless. This fruit is entirely from Nightwing.

90
POINTS



2024 CATTLEYA
THE GODDESS
West Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

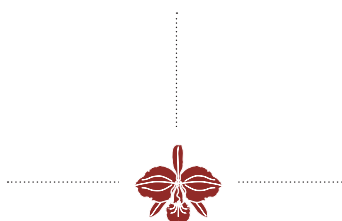
The 2024 Pinot Noir The Goddess, 100% from the Hobbs Goldrock estate in the West Sonoma Coast, is very bright and sexy today. However, a subtly muted mid-palate and tense finish point to a wine that still needs time to come together. Black licorice, forest floor and black raspberry tones sink deeply into the palate, gaining intensity with time in the glass. Give this one a couple of years to sort itself out. There's plenty of promise.

93+
POINTS

2024 CATTLEYA
THE INITIATION
Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah

The 2024 Syrah The Initiation is 100% from Soberanes. Dark, brooding and powerful, it saturates with mocha, incense, crushed rocks and olive, tempering the variety's natural feral side in favor of polished, velvety fruit. The 2024 is very primary today, and perhaps not quite as deep as it usually is at this stage, but there is more complexity vis-à-vis The Reward tasted alongside.

93
POINTS



2024 CATTLEYA
THE REWARD
Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah

Tasted from magnum, the 2024 Syrah The Reward is rich, layered and deeply fruited, but it's also a good bit less complex than it is in most years. Black raspberry liqueur, exotic spices and sweet, chocolatey tannins envelop the palate nicely, braced by gentle acids and a whisper of the minerality this site (Pisoni) typically delivers. The good news is that the 2024 is very approachable today, not always the case for this bottling, but it feels like more of a near-to-medium-term proposition.

92
POINTS