

Gus the Wine Guy

The Best Winemaker in California?

by Gustavo

Posted April 25, 2018



Who's the best winemaker in California? That's a tough question to answer, I do have a list of my favorite winemakers, but it is tough for me to pick my favorite of the bunch. I will say that after sitting down to lunch with **Bibiana González Rave Pisoni** and tasting through her incredible lineup of wines, she is in the running for the top spot in my book!

What I love about Bibiana is that she isn't just making great wine from just one or two varietals. She is producing wines from various varietals and they are all outstanding. I tasted wines from several of her projects – **Shared Notes, Cattleya, and Alma de Cattleya** – and have tasted other wines in the past where she is the consulting winemaker such as **Wayfarer** and **Pahlmeyer**. All her wines have an elegance that stands out for me. Yes, there is power and structure, but the elegance is what I enjoy the most from her wines.

By the way, her **Shared Notes Sauvignon Blanc Les pierres qui décident 2016** is one of the best, if not the best, domestic sauvignon blanc that I have ever tasted.

Unfortunately we don't have it at The Bottle Shop, but drop me a line and I will let you know where you can purchase this stunning wine. It is on the pricey side but well worth it at \$65!

An interesting fact about Bibiana is that she was born and raised in **Medellín Colombia**, a nation not known for its wine production or consumption! Unfortunately, Medellín was known for being the center for the drug cartel headed by **Pablo Escobar** and was once considered the most violent city in the world. However, Medellín has enjoyed a renaissance lately and in 2012 was nominated for Most Innovative City of the Year for its transportation policies and improvements. The crime rate has also been reduced drastically which has helped the city emerge from its dark days and transform itself into a vibrant city.

One of the aspects that I love about Bibiana's story is that she is proud to be an immigrant to this country. Bibiana states that she had to work harder than others because she was an immigrant. It reminds me of my dad who came to this country and worked hard all his life and was proud to be a part of this great country. I wish more people could see that side of the immigration story.



I will be pouring two of her wines this week at The Tasting Room. Drop by so you can taste her wines and see if you agree with me. For a fascinating look into Bibiana's road from Colombia to California winemaker, click on the following link [Bibiana's Road to Winemaking](#).

Salud!

Gustavo