

# THE **SOMM** JOURNAL

## Finding a Home Far from Their Homeland

Wine with Wanda by Wanda Mann. Posted October 5, 2020.



“Growing up in Medellín Colombia, Bibiana González Rave was not surrounded by vineyards or much of a wine culture. But sips from half-bottles shared with her father during family celebrations made an indelible impression and sparked her passion.”

Determined to become a winemaker, she pursued enology and viticulture in Cognac and Bordeaux before heading to California in 2004; after several years of working for such respected wineries as La Crema, Au Bon Climat, Qupé, and Lynmar Estate, she founded her own label, Cattleya, in Sonoma County in 2012. “I found that California has the terroir and resources to invest fully into wines that are pure expressions of place and a great representation of the philosophy of the people behind them,” she explains. “I love making elegant but powerful wines, and I feel like California is the perfect place for it.”

Of course, Rave also embraces the influences of Colombia and France in crafting her portfolio of wines from Sonoma, Napa, and the Santa Lucia Highlands, which she says “represent a little bit of who I am as a Latina growing up in Medellín, with salsa music playing in the background every day. I love the intensity of aromatics and flavors [in wine, but] at the same time, I like beauty, and I am very sensitive to bitterness, so I tend to avoid pressing the fruit too hard. [Appreciating] vivid and intense beauty in wine, I think, comes from my Colombian heritage.” She even named her label for her homeland’s national flower, the Cattleya trianae orchid—though she acknowledges that “everything I do, from farming to winemaking practices, was learned in France. The traditional approach that is so determinedly focused on terroir was engraved in my brain at a very early stage.”

*Rave’s and [Muñoz’s] journeys began on two different continents, but the experiences with wine that they shared with their fathers led them to the same place. Proudly inspired by their homelands, studies, and travels, each has made their mark, far from home, in one of the world’s most prestigious winemaking regions.*

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