
TASTING REPORT

Santa Lucia Highlands: Cool-Climate Excellence in 2021



REVIEWS BY ANTONIO GALLONI

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“These two Syrahs from Cattleya and proprietor Bibiana González Rave are spectacular. My only regret is that I only tasted two 2021s. Readers will find deep, beautifully layered Syrahs that show why this variety is so well suited to the Santa Lucia Highlands.

2021 CATTLEYA SYRAH THE REWARD



Tasted from magnum, the 2021 Syrah The Reward is another riveting wine from Bibiano Gonzalez Rave. A wine of vertical, explosive energy, the 2021 is packed with dark red/purplish fruit, lavender, mint, spice and dried herbs. The sheer intensity of the fruit pretty much buries the tannins. This is another wine that shows how compelling Syrah can be in the Santa Lucia Highlands. It was made from Syrah cuttings originally brought over from Cote-Rotie and planted at Pisoni. The Reward is not as inky or opulent as The Initiation, but it is every bit as riveting, if not more. The magnum format surely helps.

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2021 CATTLEYA SYRAH THE INITIATION



The 2021 Syrah The Initiation is fabulous. Rich, inky and explosive, the 2021 races across the palate, offering an exotic concoction of blackberry, espresso, menthol, lavender, licorice and baking spice. The Initiation is a full-bodied, inky wine, yet it also offers impeccable balance, with no hard edges and tons of sheer allure. Impressive.

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POINTS
