



From Santa Lucia Highlands Steely and Steadfast 2022

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The brainchild of Bibiana González Rave, Cattleya Wines is a testament to the synergy of technical winemaking with soul and spirit. A native of Colombia, Rave cut her teeth in the Northern Rhône in France, South Africa and Santa Barbara, imparting wide perspective and worldliness to her winemaking and style. Cattleya (the national flower of Colombia) is a lineup mainly focused on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Sonoma County—wines that I tasted and included in this report. They are truly exceptional, especially the 2022 Pinot Noir The Goddess and the 2022 Chardonnay The Temptress. The two wines she makes from the Santa Lucia Highlands are 100% Syrah, both of which are extraordinarily compelling and built for a long stay in the cellar. Bibiana González Rave has the goods, and I'm excited to watch her continue to refine her already super-precise style.





2022 CATTLEYA
CUVÉE NUMBER FIVE
Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

A blend from two Sonoma Coast sites above 900 feet in elevation (Sunchase and Nightwing), the 2022 Chardonnay Cuvée Number Five is a rockstar of an appellation-level wine. Soft-textured, caressing and even-tempered, it coasts through the mouth with toasted hazelnut, mint, white flowers and chalk hints. Bright, citrus-fresh acidity keeps things moving, finishing with an oily tangerine peel note. Fermentation and aging in 65% new French oak for 11 months was expertly judged.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
THE TEMPTRESS
Russian River Valley Chardonnay

The 2022 Chardonnay The Temptress hails from the Martinelli Road Vineyard in the Russian River Valley. Aged for 14 months in 38% new French oak, it's an oily, voluptuous, texturally captivating wine. Ripe pear, apricot, marzipan, hazelnut and clementine aromas lead off, finishing with a trace of herbs—thyme, tarragon and mint. So round, long and caressing, this full-bodied Chardonnay is stuffed to the gills but manages to remain lithe and measured. It finishes almost comically long. What a beauty.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
BEYOND THE THRESHOLD
Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

The 2022 Chardonnay Beyond the Threshold is deeply fruited, powerful and broad, without any semblance of excess. Incredibly driven and vibrant, there's an unmistakable line of mineral tension within. White smoke, peach, oyster shell and pineapple combine in a unique, engaging bouquet. Layers and layers of complexity are at play here, finishing with nerve, focus and persistence. This is already so generous, but it will surely age gracefully. A 16-month stay in 75% new French oak worked wonderfully. The 2022 was sourced from Sun Chase Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast AVA, from a plot planted entirely to Wente clone.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
PINOT NOIR
Russian River Valley

Hailing from both Martinelli's Wedding Block and Ritchie, the 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley) is vivid, extroverted and energetic, but in the measured style that marks Bibiana González Rave's approach. Black raspberry, blood orange and lavender lead the way, while gentle, sweet tannins coat the palate. Nothing here is out of place as the 2022 finishes with lovely length and florality. This is supremely elegant.

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POINTS





2022 CATTLEYA
PINOT NOIR
Sonoma Coast

The 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast) is much darker in character than the Russian River bottling. It opens with blackberry, black cherry and a broad swath of sweet and savory spices. Sensual and refined, the structure here is open and ready to go. Enjoy this any time over the next several years. Vineyard sources are Sunchase and Nightwing.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
BELLY OF THE WHALE
Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

The 2022 Pinot Noir Belly of the Whale hails from a single block in the Sun Chase Vineyard in the Petaluma Gap (block 17, the highest elevation block, at about 1,300 feet). Rocky, stress-inducing soils always yield small harvests here, which was no different in 2022. More inward and reserved than some of the other Pinots in this range, the Belly of the Whale is deeply concentrated and forcefully structured, holding its power in reserve. Blood orange, black tea and spicy herbs linger, finishing with notable persistence and drive.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
THE GODDESS
West Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir

The 2022 Pinot Noir The Goddess, sourced from Paul Hobbs' Goldrock Estate, is a seriously powerful wine. Built for the long haul, refined tannins are impossible to ignore, refusing to release their grip but also never imposing or impeding the 2022's momentum. Juicy and elegant, there's incredible pedigree and poise here. Blue-toned fruit and exotic spices linger atop a base of rocky minerals. Give this gorgeous Pinot at least a year or two in bottle to settle.

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POINTS

2022 CATTLEYA
THE INITIATION
Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah

The 2022 Syrah The Initiation, from Soberanes, pours an opaque ruby/purple in the glass. Dark and somber but undeniably expressive, it oozes sweet blackberry, lavender and loads of exotic spices. Elegant and more red-toned on the palate, the archetypal SLH Syrah tannins are incredibly well-managed. Aged in 75% new French oak for 18 months, The Initiation soaked it up like a champ. It's open and approachable with some air but powerfully structured for a long evolution.

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POINTS



2022 CATTLEYA
THE REWARD
Santa Lucia Highlands Syrah

Bottled only in magnum, the 2022 Syrah The Reward hails from Côte-Rotie cuttings planted in a highly lauded site. The Reward is a sizzling, sensual beauty. Virile, powerful and oh-so-brooding, it slithers out of the glass with an exotic bouquet of brambly fruit, menthol, vanilla pod, garrigue and iron. Immediate and responsive on the palate, it quickly coils upon itself, descending into a deep cavern of powdery, cocoa-like tannins. Generous acidity lends lift and energy, never feeling murky or overly weighted, but the 2022 will take at least a few years to loosen its death grip. That said, it's quite a bit more open than the 2021 tasted alongside, likely a function of the warmth of the 2022 growing season. As I finish this note, the last sip is

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POINTS

