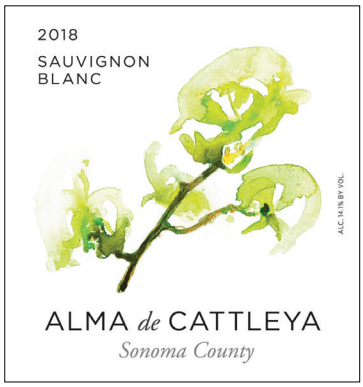
Eat Something Sexy

The Great Value Pinot Noir and Chardonnay

Review by Amy Reiley. Posted March 17th, 2019.

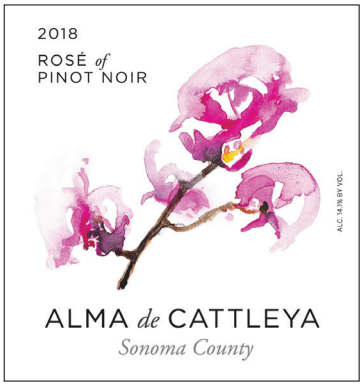
Women on Wine with Amy Reiley

Every once in a while, I encounter a winery, a person, a little-known region that I can't get out of my head. When that happens, I scrap my month's column and dedicate all my energy to bringing you this special something that lingers in my every thought. This month is one of those months. That's because it's the month in which I discovered the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from Alma de Cattleya.



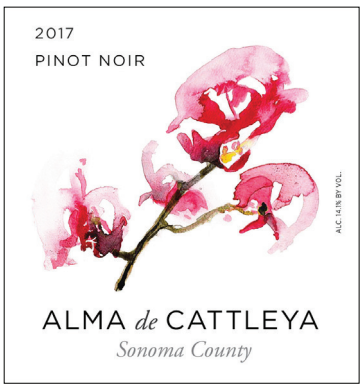
Alma de Cattleya 2018 Sauvignon Blanc

At $20 a bottle, I wouldn't call this wine as much of a fabulous buy as some of Rave's other wines. But is it a wine you're going to want to drink? Absolutely! It offers freshness and citrus bite, yet its acidity seems restrained, feminine. And the finish? If you like a wine that lingers, this is your kind of Sauvignon Blanc.



Alma de Cattleya 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir

Made in the traditional, Provencal method, this refreshing rosé offers the floral and berry notes you would expect from a California rosé. But it also shows a coastal influence with a hint of salinity and sunshine on both the nose and palate.



Alma de Cattleya 2017 Pinot Noir

If you want to experience all the best attributes of Sonoma County Pinot Noir without having to smash your piggy bank, you need this wine. Gorgeous berries and vanilla are prominent on the nose. In the mouth, you get those ripe berry flavors up front. But toward the back of the palate it offers sexy, earthy notes of a damp forest floor.

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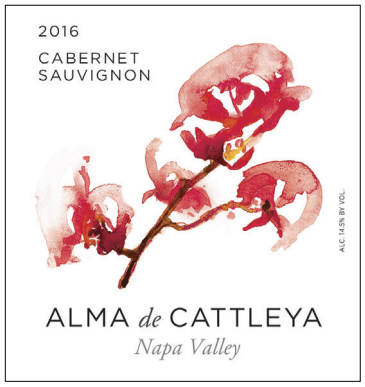
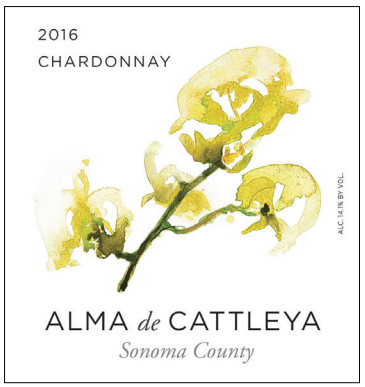


Alma de Cattleya 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine, made with 100% Cabernet, is from Napa Valley fruit. It offers dark fruit aromas with a hint of vegetal character. Its tannins, although prominent, have a velvety texture. Dark fruits, including black raspberry and black currant dominate on the palate with a teasing hint of caramel on the finish.



Alma de Cattleya 2016 Chardonnay

The first word that comes to mind when I taste this Chardonnay is balance. It's a nicely balanced, medium-bodied wine with a texture that glides across the tongue. It offers lush tropical fruits on both the nose and palate and an almost imperceptible hint of toffee on the finish.