

WINES OF THE WEEK
2021 Alma de Cattleya Pinot Noir



A promising winemaker and a promising California Pinot from \$27.98, JP¥5,428 or £32.

I was very taken by this beautifully made Pinot at the recent Wine Society spring tasting.

The Society's California buyer Sarah Knowles MW, who took the picture below of the wine's maker, has sniffed out something quite special. Bibiana González Rave (great surname) is Colombian and claims to have decided to become a winemaker at the age of 14. After studying chemical engineering and business in Columbia, she studied viticulture and oenology in Cognac and gained a degree in oenology at the University of Bordeaux, graduating with honours.

She seems to have worked in wineries all over the place, not just Châteaux Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion (celebrating 40 years of Dillon family ownership this year) in Bordeaux but with Stéphane Ogier and Clusel-Roch in Côte Rôtie, Saronsberg in South Africa and La Crema, Peay, Au Bon Climat, Qupé and Lynmar Estate in California.

On her informative website she declares, 'Growing up in Colombia shaped who I am. My training in France defined the winemaker I became and California gives me the land and the opportunity to make exceptional wines.'

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ALMA *de* CATTLEYA



Bibiana wrote to me:

The 2021 was a very special vintage for me and for wine producers in California. Not only it was coming after the fires in 2020, where I was not able to make any of my red wines, the growing season was long and smooth. Cold winter followed by a great budbreak and lots of potential for concentrated grapes. I am very involved in the farming of vineyards I used for my three different wine labels: Cattleya, Shared Notes and Alma de Cattleya.

During the maturity process and after green harvest, we realised that the mild ripening weather was bringing to us matching physiological, phenological and aromatic maturity. I felt like I had all the time in the world to make a picking decision.

Fruit for our 2021 comes mainly from the Russian River Valley and sites across the Sonoma Coast AVA. Clonal selection includes Dijon 114, 115, 667 and 777 and Pommard, Calera, Swan and 2A.