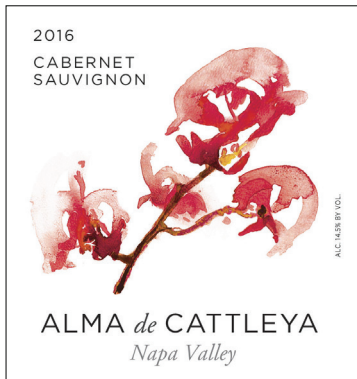


Alma de Cattleya 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon

91 points

When you hear a wine name like Alma de Cattleya you might rightly think of South America – Columbia specifically in this case. You probably don't think of Napa. Yet this wine from talented winemaker Bibiana González Rave is all Napa but reflects her Colombian heritage – Cattleya is a type of stunningly beautiful orchid.

As a Napa Cabernet this strides over a different path; less overt red fruit and more dark black fruits like blueberry, black berry, mild tannins, a smokiness lingering in the background, and a subtle if subversive acidity. It's all Cabernet from actually two different vineyard sites, though it's all clone 337, which offers reliable and reasonable yields of smallish berries, and has fruit-forward flavors.



18 months of oak aging with a scant 10% of those barrels being new allows the fruit to come through but this is neither a big hefty Napa Cabernet nor a wine that celebrates new French oak. This is a confident, mid priced Cabernet offering a lithe beauty, like the flower for which it is named.