



SHARED  
NOTES



WAYFARER

# JEB DUNNUCK

## THE WINES OF BIBIANA GONZÁLEZ RAVE PISONI: CATTLEYA, SHARED NOTES & WAYFARER

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Curious about the next generation of Winemakers in California? Want to know who you should keep on your radar? Well, here you go! I've written about the talent and passion of Bibiana González Rave for several years now, and I continue to love just about everything she touches.

Unquestionably part of the upcoming generation of world-class winemakers who will dominate the California wine scene over the coming decades, Bibiana hails from Medellín, Colombia, where she achieved a degree in chemical engineering (her father was an electrical engineer and her mother was in nance). She then earned a Technician of Viticulture and Oenology diploma in Angoulême, France, followed by a diploma of Oenology from the University of Bordeaux. She worked harvests in Bordeaux – at none other than Château Haut-Brion – as well as with Stéphane Ogier in Côte Rôtie and Domaine du Devevey in Burgundy. In addition, she worked in South Africa and with the likes of Peay, Au Bon Climat, Qupé and Lynmar in California.

As I hope these reviews show, Bibiana is far from a one variety winemaker and has a rare ability to excel with numerous varieties and different styles.



**Cattleya**, which is named after the Colombia state ower, is Bibiana's personal project and focuses primarily on single vineyard Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, as well as a Syrah from the Santa Lucia Highland. For the Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, Rave pulls from two sites: Pratt and Donum Vineyards.

The *Pratt vineyard* was developed in the early 1990's by vineyard manager Jim Pratt and lies just to the north of Sebastopol, just south of the Green Valley AVA in the Russian River Valley. This is a sandy, loamy site that consist of rolling hillside parcels. The site sees the classic early morning fog, and high temperatures top out in the mid 70's. Bibiana makes a Chardonnay from this site based all on the Wente clone.

The Donum Vineyard is located to the east of Pratt Vineyard, in the Carneros AVA, and is planted with numerous clones of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Bibiana's Donum Vineyard Pinot Noir is always a blend of Calera and Rutherford clones, and sees 40-50% whole clusters in the fermentation.

The Syrah comes from the *Soberanes Vineyard* in the Santa Lucia Highlands, which is a younger, yet promising, site managed by the Pisoni and Francioni families.

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## 2015

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### 2015 Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 95pt

The tiny production 2015 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard is a sensational Syrah that has complexity, elegance and richness. Upfront and perfumed aromatically, yet with serious intensity in its violets, flowers, blueberries, toasty oak and spice, it has an elegant, seamless style on the palate that's already hard to resist. Reminding me of a silky Côte Rôtie from the southern end of the appellation, it needs 2-3 years of bottle age and will keep for a decade.

### 2015 Cattleya Wines Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard - 96pt

Bottled in January, but not released until this September, the 2015 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard is only from clone 15 (which is an old Wente clone) and comes from just four rows in the vineyard. This is a very cool site and one of the last to be harvested. Native fermented and aged in 66% new French oak for 16 months, it has a sensational mix of richness and freshness, with lots of stone fruits, tangerine and green citrus aromas and flavors, beautiful concentration, high acidity and a great finish. Impressive, but unfortunately there's only 65 cases available.

### 2015 Cattleya Wines Pinot Noir Cuvee Number One - 95pt

Two different clones: the Dijon 115 and the Pommard, are the backbone of the 143-case 2015 Pinot Noir Cuvee Number One. Its deep ruby color is followed by fabulous notes of violets, blackberries, herbs and forest floor aromas and flavors. Concentrated, vibrant and thrillingly pure, it's a sensational Pinot that shows how good this vintage is for Pinot Noir in Sonoma. While it's the least expensive in the lineup, it's unquestionably one of the best values. Drink it over the coming 7-8 years.



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## 2015

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### 2015 Cattleya Wines Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard - 95pt

Coming from very old vines (37-year-old vines), the 2015 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard offers lots of black cherry, framboise, dried violets and spice characteristics in its elegant, seamless, yet still voluptuous and layered profile. Perfumed and complex aromatically, it's silky and refined on the palate, with present, yet polished tannin. This terrific 2015 has everything; complexity, volume, depth and length. Drink it anytime over the coming decade. There's a scant 62 cases made.

### 2015 Cattleya Wines Russian River Valley Chardonnay - 93pt

A new cuvee from Bibiana that's released at a lower price point and made with the idea to be more approachable, the 200-case 2015 Russian River Valley Chardonnay comes from three different clones (4, 78 and 15), all from the Pratt Vineyard, and was brought up in 35% new French oak. While released at a lower price point, it offers a fabulous drinking experience and is a great introduction into the style of the estate. Stone fruits, apple blossom, toasted bread and hints of spice all give way to rich, textured, yet vibrant Chardonnay that's one great drink.

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## 2014

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### 2014 Cattleya Wines Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard - 94pt

The 96-case 2014 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard shows the upfront, sexy, and rounded style of the vintage. Peach, hints of tropical fruits, white flowers and honeysuckle all emerge from this exuberant, sexy, classic 2014 Chardonnay that will keep for a decade.

### 2014 Cattleya Wines Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard - 94pt

Made with 45% whole cluster, the 2014 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard shows more earth, stems and darker Pinot Noir fruit, as well as a rich, concentrated, yet elegant and pure style on the palate. This is another serious wine from Bibiana that bucks the upfront nature of the vintage. It opens nicely with time in the glass, has exceptional length, and will be even better in another year or two. There's only 60 cases made.

### 2014 Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 97pt

The inky colored 2014 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard is just drop dead gorgeous, and I suspect the greatest wine made to date from this site. Deep ruby/purple colored, with liquid violet, black raspberries, cassis, graphite, and hints of charcoal, it hits the palate with sensational depth of fruit, full-bodied richness and a layered, multi-dimensional texture that keeps you coming back to the glass. Nevertheless, it's shut down slightly since I tasted in on release, and I suspect it's best forgotten for a year or three. There's just 115 cases made, don't miss it!



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## 2013

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### 2013 Cattleya Wines Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard - 94pt

I love this vintage, and the 2013 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard shows refinement, concentration, purity and focus in spades. Crushed rocks, honeycomb, sautéed peach, dried rocks and spice all emerge from this backward, concentrated Chardonnay that needs another year or three in bottle. It's a beautiful wine, but like all of these release, there's a scant amount to go around. 100 cases produced.

### 2013 Cattleya Wines Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard - 94pt

Young and backward, with a firm, focused, even tannic, style, the 2013 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard saw 50% whole clusters and 11 months in 50-60% new French oak. Black cherry, black raspberries, sassafras, violets and hints of sage give way to a structured, yet lively Pinot that really needs another year or three to hit its peak, and will keep nicely through 2028. It has some upside as well.

### 2013 Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 96pt

Wow, the 2013 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard is hold onto your hats good. Deep, inky, concentrated and impenetrable, with a massive mid-palate, it has primordial notes of graphite, crushed rocks, burning embers and loads of black and blue fruits. I saw potential in this when I tasted it a few years ago, but wow! Forget bottles for 2-3 years and drink over the following decade or more. There's 115 cases produced

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## 2012

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### 2012 Cattleya Wines Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard - 95pt

The 2012 Chardonnay Pratt Vineyard is a big, exuberant, sexy Chardonnay that's locked and loaded. Buttered stone fruits, peach, honeysuckle and white flowers flow to a ripe, full-bodied Chardonnay that has bright acidity and loads to love. It's drinking great today, but is still a youngster.

### 2012 Cattleya Wines Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard - 95pt

Made from equal parts Calera and Rutherford clone and aged in 50% new French oak, the 2012 Pinot Noir Donum Vineyard is also youthful and lively, with the rounded, supple style of the vintage. Perfectly balanced, seamless and elegant, it's a complete Pinot Noir that has textbook raspberry, spice, forest floor and underbrush aromatic, solid mid-palate depth, lots of sweet fruit and a great finish. It's in the same ballpark as the 2015, yet in a riper, hedonistic style.



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## 2012

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### 2012 Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 94pt

The 68-case 2012 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard is a riper, rounded effort that has gained incredible complexity and depth since I tasted it on release. It offers lots of ripe black currants, black raspberries, peppery spice, game and pencil lead characteristics in a rounded, opulent, sumptuous style that just begs to be drunk. This is just starting to show some evolution, but it gets better and better with time in the glass, has a Jamet-like complexity, and a great finish. Enjoy this beauty anytime over the coming decade or more.

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## 2011

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### 2011 Cattleya Wines Syrah Soberanes Vineyard - 95pt

Still inky colored, the 2011 Syrah Soberanes Vineyard is still a baby, and shows how age-worthy these wines truly are. Graphite, blackberry, cassis, black pepper, olives, lead pencil and even a hint of bacon fat give way to a young, vibrant, incredibly pure and beautiful Syrah that shows the cooler nature of the vintage, yet backs it up with terrific depth and richness. It's possibly the Syrah of the vintage in California, although there's almost none available.

# SHARED NOTES

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The **Shared Notes** releases are a project between Bibiana and husband Jeff Pisoni, which they started in 2012 so that they could spend more time together during harvest. Bibiana learned how to make Sauvignon at Château Haut-Brion, and for this project they harvest at tiny yields, ferment at low temperatures, and age the wines in new barrels. These are unquestionably some of the top examples of Sauvignon and Semillon coming out of the new world today.

2015

## **2015 Shared Notes Les Leçons des Maîtres - 96pt**

While 2015 Les Leçons des Maîtres (80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Semillon) is brought up in new barrels, you'd never know it and it has classic Bordeaux Blanc notes of green citrus, crushed rock, mineral water and hints of lychee. Medium-bodied, beautifully pure, elegant and yet serious, structured and lengthy, it's unquestionably the best Sauvignon and Semillon blend I've tasted from California.

## **2015 Shared Notes Les Pierres qui Décident - 93pt**

More fresh, lively and racy, the 2015 Les Pierres qui Décident (100% Sauvignon Blanc) is a gorgeous, mineral, citrus and lime scented white that hits the palate with classic Sauvignon fruits, vibrant acidity and a clean, pure, incredibly elegant style. 93 Cases.



# WAYFARER

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Bibiana joined the **Pahlmeyer** team in 2012 and is now the consulting winemaker for these terrific single vineyard Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays released under the Wayfarer. This 30-acre site was purchased in 1988 (planted in 2000) and is the only vineyard David Abreu (who developed the Pahlmeyer vineyards in Napa) has ever planted in Sonoma. It consists of 26 acres planted to numerous clones (12 to be exact) of Pinot Noir, as well as four acres of Old Wente (Berlenback and Hyde), Dijon 95, and Mount Eden clones of Chardonnay. The site lies at 1,100 feet in elevation and four miles as the crow flies from the Pacific Ocean. The Chardonnays are made in the 800-case range, with most of the Pinot Noirs in the 100-case range. While they started out with a single release, they now produce numerous Pinot Noirs where are driven by the different soils and clones. I referenced La Tâche more than once in these reviews, and I don't make that comparison lightly. These are brilliant wines.

## 2015

### 2015 Wayfarer Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard - 96pt

The 2015 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard is flat out gorgeous. Deep, rich and elegant, with melon, citrus rind, brioche and hints of white truffles, this beauty hits the palate with plenty of richness, bright acidity, and a great finish. Coming from goldridge soils, it's a classic, elegant Chardonnay that will be better with another year or two of bottle age and drink nicely for a decade.

### 2015 Wayfarer Pinot Noir The Traveler - 98pt

The only special cuvee made in 2015, the 2015 Pinot Noir The Traveler comes from a suitcase clone (from a great, great producer in Burgundy) that was completely destemmed and spent 11 months in barrel. Awesome on the nose, with notes of violets, caramelized raspberries, blueberries, underbrush and spice, it has an ethereal texture, incredible purity and a killer finish. In short, I love this wine. Drink it anytime over the coming 10-15 years. There's just 100 cases produced.

### 2015 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard - 95pt

This is the estate cuvee made with the idea to include all the different clones and blocks of the vineyard. The 2015 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard offers terrific black cherry and framboise notes intermixed with hints of violet, peach and marmalade. Perfumed, incredibly complex, layered and silky, it's a gorgeous Pinot Noir that has nicely integrated acidity, tons of class, and a great finish. Due to yields, there was only one single vineyard cuvee made in 2015, and this vineyard blend is certainly not far behind in terms of quality. There's 875 cases made.



# WAYFARER

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2014

## 2014 Wayfarer Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard - 96pt

More generous, rounded and sexy than the 2015 (and 2013), the 2014 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard offers a buttered peach, caramelized pineapple, and honeysuckle nose to go with lots of minerality, full-bodied richness, and sensational purity of fruit. It's another tour de force in Chardonnay to enjoy through 2026.

## 2014 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Golden Mean - 94pt

A blend that's made from a mix of Pommard and Swan, the 2014 Pinot Noir Golden Mean is another sensational 2014. Incredibly perfumed, with raspberry, violets, peach and floral notes, this beauty is elegant, seamless and pure on the palate, with the good acidity, and a seamlessness that's hard to believe. It picks up more spice and forest floor notes with time in the glass, has a big core of sweet fruit, and impeccable overall balance. It's great today, but will easily continue drinking nicely through 2026.

## 2014 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Mother Rock - 95pt

This cuvee comes from two blocks that have the most superficial soils in the vineyard, i.e. forcing the roots to go into the "mother rock" of the vineyard. A blend of Mont Eden (which is clone 37) and clone 777, the 335-case 2014 Pinot Noir Mother Rocks is a hands down success that offers fabulous notes of cassis, framboise, spice and spring flowers in a ripe, sexy, yet also elegant and ethereally textured package. It has tons to love and given its purity and balance, it will keep delivering the goods for another decade or more.

## 2014 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge - 95pt

My favorite of the Paige's Ridge releases, the 2014 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge is a ripe, opulent effort that offers tons of spice, strawberry, dried flowers and forest floor aromas and flavors. Brought up in 100% new French oak, it's a ripe, undeniably sexy and seamless Pinot Noir that has everything. Drink it over the coming decade. Unfortunately, there's only 40 cases made.

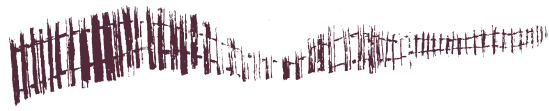
## 2014 Wayfarer Pinot Noir The Traveler - 94pt

The 2014 Pinot Noir The Traveler offers more spice, as well as notes of red and black currants, strawberries, toasted spices and forest floor. It's a classic, sweetly fruited 2014 that has a rounded, opulent profile, loads of character, moderate acidity and a great finish. There's 175 cases produced.

## 2014 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard - 93pt

Supple, rounded and layered, with impressive purity and upfront juiciness, the 2014 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard gives up framboise, Asian spice, forest floor and black cherry aromatics, medium to full-bodied richness, a silky texture and no hard edges. This terrific 2014 has loads of charm and upfront appeal, yet I'm sure it's going to evolve gracefully for at least a decade. This is the largest production release and there's roughly 1,000 cases of the 2014.





# WAYFARER

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2013

## 2013 Wayfarer Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard - 95+pt

More generous, rounded and sexy than the 2015 (and 2013), the 2014 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard offers a buttered peach, The 2013 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard is another winner, although it needs bottle age. Crushed rocks, honeycomb, and buttered citrus and stone fruits give way to a classic, concentrated, incredibly fresh Chardonnay that needs time.

## 2013 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Golden Mean - 92+pt

The 2013 Pinot Noir Golden Mean is a beautiful complete, tight, Burgundian-styled effort that needs to be left alone for another 2-3 years. Black cherry, violets, blueberry and sappy floral notes emerge from this medium to full-bodied, structured 2013 that has bright acidity, excellent concentration and plenty of length on the finish.

## 2013 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Mother Rock - 93+pt

Currants, licorice, roasted herbs and some meaty notes all emerge from the 2013 Pinot Noir Mother Rock, which is masculine and concentrated, with a distinct Côte de Nuits character. Deep, medium to full-bodied and impeccably balanced, with high, yet integrated acidity, it's easily my favorite of the 2013s from Bibiana. There's a tiny 325 cases made, but it's a singular expression of California Pinot Noir.

## 2013 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge - 93+pt

Black cherry, lots of earthy minerality, blackcurrants and licorice define the 100-case 2013 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge, which is structured, fresh and focused on the palate. This is another serious wine from the 2013 vintage that needs time. I love its mid-palate depth, as well as its purity, and it should be at its finest from 2020-2030.

## 2013 Wayfarer Pinot Noir The Traveler - 95pt

Possessing the acidity and concentration that's the hallmark of the vintage, the 120-case 2013 Pinot Noir The Traveler offers a surprising elegance and purity to go with notes of strawberries, spices, underbrush and flowers. Silky, polished and elegant on the palate, with fine tannin and no weight, it's an ethereal Pinot Noir to drink over the coming decade.

## 2013 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard - 93pt

Showing the freshness and purity of the vintage, the 2013 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard is a young, juicy Pinot Noir that offers lots of black cherry, black raspberry, violets, charcoal, and flowers. Fresh, edgy and lightly textured on the palate, it doesn't have the sheer concentration of some of the single parcel releases, yet has plenty of depth, nicely integrated acidity, and polished tannin. It will be even better in another year or three.



# WAYFARER

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2012

## 2012 Wayfarer Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard - 94pt

The 2012 Chardonnay Wayfarer Vineyard gives up more minerality as well as honeycomb, brioche and white flowers. It too is a rich, mineral-laced, fresh, age-worthy Chardonnay that has terrific depth and length.

## 2012 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Golden Mean - 95pt

Brought up in barrels with slightly higher toast levels, the 250-case 2012 Pinot Noir Golden Mean offers a ripe, hedonistic style in its blackberry, melted licorice, roasted herb and forest floor bouquet. Ripe, opulent and layered on the palate, with tons of mid-palate depth and a broad, expansive texture, it's not for those craving cooler-climate, green, tart aromas and flavors. This sexy beast has the concentration and balance to keep for another 10-15 years.

## 2012 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Mother Rock - 94pt

The 2012 Pinot Noir Mother Rock is a classic example of this ripe, pedal-to-the-metal vintage. Lots of spice, black cherries, scorched earth and licorice characteristics flow to a beautifully ripe, sexy red that has a broad, expansive texture, impressive depth of fruit, sweet tannin and a great finish. Like most 2012s, it's not for those craving lightweight aromas and flavors, but it's impeccably balanced and one seriously good mouthful of Pinot Noir fruit!

## 2012 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge - 95pt

Coming from the eastern edge of the Wayfarer vineyard and all clone 667 (this is a Dijon clone from Burgundy), the 140-case 2012 Pinot Noir Paige's Ridge is smoking good! Ripe, perfumed aromas of Asian spices, black cherries, blueberries, violets and earth all give way to a full-bodied, rounded, and incredibly sexy wine that has terrific persistence and length. Like the 2012 The Traveler, it has a sexy, La Tâche-like personality and is a joy to drink.

## 2012 Wayfarer Pinot Noir The Traveler - 95pt

Displaying a bigger, richer personality, yet still playing in the more elegant style of the estate, the 2012 Pinot Noir The Traveler gives up awesome notes of framboise, strawberries, licorice and forest floor. Elegant, rounded, seamless and so, so seamless and pure, it's a sensational effort that, like the 2015, has a touch of La Tâche flair! Drink it over the coming decade (or more).

## 2012 Wayfarer Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard - 94pt

The 2012 Pinot Noir Wayfarer Vineyard shows the most oak, yet has gorgeous purity of fruit and ample concentration. Framboise, caramelized cherries, and strawberries notes give way to a fresh, elegant, yet concentrated Pinot Noir that has tons of mid-palate depth and a rounded, delicious texture. Like all the 2012s, it's a riper, more exuberant, and hedonistic wine and is going to deliver the goods through at least 2024.