



MARIETTA CELLARS

Winemaker Scot Bilbro has been at the helm of Marietta since 2012; his father, Chris Bilbro, founded the winery in 1978.



Gibson Block Syrah 2017 McDowell Valley, California

ESTATE

Starting with only a handful of purchased grapes in 1978, Marietta Cellars has been a standout winery in Sonoma and Mendocino since the very start. Founded by Chris Bilbro, a Sonoma native with winemaking roots dated back three generations, Marietta rose to prominence with its revolutionary Old Vine Red, a California red blend that essentially created the category. The winery has slowly expanded its estate holdings over the past thirty years, evolving into a beacon for high quality, balanced Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, and Rhône variety blends.

WINE

Made from the oldest Syrah vines in California, in the heart of the McDowell Valley AVA, this wine reflects the hidden property where it is grown - quiet, obscure and profound. This ancient, dry farmed, mixed block next to the original Gibson Homestead has been producing grapes for over a hundred years. Limited in production due to the unique grape source, this wine is built to enjoy with food.

VINEYARD

The fruit for this wine comes from Marietta's McDowell Valley estate, which is renowned for Rhône varietals and home to some of the oldest Syrah and Grenache Gris in California. These unique vines are six feet tall, head-trained, and dry farmed. This vineyard, in a valley surrounded by mountains, benefits from the cold sink that ensure cools nights and preserves acidity and freshness.

Farming: The Gibson Block Syrah 2017 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Syrah
Fermentation: In stainless steel tanks
Aging: 18 months in neutral barrels
Alcohol: 14.9%

VINTAGE

After two late years in a row, 2017 progressed smoothly with perfectly timed budbreak and fruit set. Harvest was early and relatively low yielding, although small berries brought excellent concentration. Picking decisions were difficult as the acid was slow to decrease, but in the end the early pick lead to delightful brightness and depth without over-ripe flavors.

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"The 2017 Syrah Estate Gibson Block is a total knockout. Inky, rich and voluptuous in the glass, the 2017 possesses off-the-charts fruit intensity. Even with all of its density, the 2017 retains a terrific backbone of acidity and graphite-infused minerality that gives the wine unreal brightness. The 2017 is such a distinctive wine" - Antonio Galloni, 4/2020