



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



Old Vine Riesling 2020

California, USA

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

Marietta's Old Vine Riesling is the most recent and unique extension of the Old Vine series (or "OVR"). Originally intended as a gift for Scot's partner, Lisa, who is German, the bone dry style of Riesling became a fan favorite and permanent addition. While it is the only wine in the lineup that is not estate grown, it comes from some of California's oldest Riesling vines and offers an extraordinary value and delightful drinking experience.

Farming: The Old Vine Riesling is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

VINEYARD

The fruit for this wine comes from the Cole Ranch and Wirz Vineyards. Cole Ranch, a single, 55-acre vineyard at 1,400 feet in elevation, is the smallest AVA in the United States. Planted in the early 1970s by John Cole, this corner of Mendocino is remote, mountainous, and surrounded by redwood forests. Marked by a cool climate and its location atop the San Andreas Fault, this is a coveted source of Riesling. The second portion of the fruit comes from the Wirz vineyard, four hours' drive south and also atop the San Andreas Fault. Planted in 1965 and is now hand-tended by Pat Wirz, these dry-farmed vines are the oldest remaining riesling vines in California. These gnarled old vines rest at about 1,000 feet of elevation in the Gabilan Mountains, 25 miles east of Monterey Bay, on a bed of decomposed granite and limestone.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Riesling

Fermentation: Whole cluster pressed, stainless steel fermented

Aging: 60% aged in neutral barrels and 40% aged in stainless steel

Alcohol: 12.5%

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

92

"The 2020 Old Vine Riesling comes from very old dry-farmed, head-pruned vines in San Benito County. It is exotic and perfumed with white peach, lilac, manuka honey and petrol scents. The palate is lushly fruited and mouth coating, which gives it a sense of sweetness, although it is technically dry. It has a spine of racy acidity and finishes long and full of flavor." - E.B., 6/2021