



MARIETTA CELLARS

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



Christo Red Blend 2017

North Coast, 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

Named and styled after Chris Bilbro, affectionately called "Christo" by his great-aunt Marietta, this Rhone varietal blend is gentle but powerful, pleasurable but deep, and refined while raw. An ode to Scot's father and founder of Marietta Cellars, this blend is largely Syrah from the McDowell estate, blended with Petite Sirah from the Angeli Estate and Grenache from the Yorkville Highlands Estate. The pig snout on the label is a reminder of how Chris Bilbro made wild boar sausage and carted his creations around the country to share with chefs and wine lovers alike as he sold Marietta wines.

VINEYARD

The Syrah comes from the McDowell Valley estate, situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, benefits from the cold sink that ensure cools nights and preserves acidity and freshness. The Petite Sirah comes from the Angeli Estate vineyard in Anderson Valley and the Grenache comes from the Yorkville Highlands estate at 1,400 ft in elevation on the mountain pass between the Anderson Valley and the Alexander Valley.

Farming: The Christo Red Blend 2017 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: 63% Syrah, 28% Grenache, 6% Petite Sirah, 3% Viognier

Fermentation: The Syrah is co-fermented with a small amount of Viognier for aromatic lift and blended with Grenach and Petite Sirah

Aging: 18 months in neutral oak

Alcohol: 14.8%

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 Christo, Marietta's Syrah/Grenache-based red, is another compelling wine in this range. Inky red/purplish berry fruit, rose petal, mint, spice and floral notes are front and center. Sumptuous and racy, the 2017 is so inviting from the very first taste." - Antonio Galloni, 4/2020