



MARIETTA CELLARS

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



Román Zinfandel 2018

North Coast, 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

Named after cellarmaster Román Cisneros who has worked at Marietta for over 32 years, this Estate Zinfandel is from the Angeli estate vineyard in Alexander Valley and the McDowell Valley estate vineyard. One of the grape varietals that Marietta is famous for, this wine captures the bright, juicy character of Zinfandel, and hearkens to an era before dark, thick and oaky styles of Zinfandel took hold.

VINEYARD

The fruit for this wine comes from the Angeli Estate vineyard in Anderson Valley and the McDowell Valley estate. The Angeli Ranch, first planted to vines in the late 1880s, is a 35 acre vineyard connecting Zinfandel planted on gravel swales from the Russian River to terraced knolls planted with Cabernet. Foggy mornings along the Russian River burn off to hot afternoons followed by chilly nights, striking the perfect balance between warm days and cool nights. The McDowell Valley estate, situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, benefits from the cold sink that ensure cool nights and preserves acidity and freshness.

Farming: The Román Zinfandel is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: 92% Zinfandel, 4% Petite Sirah, 4% Barbera

Fermentation: A unique approach of cool fermentations and 10 months of neutral barrel aging

Aging: 10 months in neutral barrels

Alcohol: 14.6%

VINTAGE

The 2018 harvest was a grower's dream, though not without its exciting moments. Healthy spring rains and generous fruit set started the vintage off well, followed by a mild to cool August and September when harvest began slowly. Early October rains menaced the remainder of the harvest, but gave way to dry weather through the second half of October and November with beautiful sunny days which slowly ripened the remaining crop. Long seasons like these allow early tannin maturation while the cool weather protects the acid, all leading to developed, powerful tannins with bright acid at lower than typical brix.

92

vinous

"The 2018 Román is bright, punchy and full of Zinfandel character. Dark red and purplish fruit, spice and mint all race out of the glass effortlessly. Dollops of Petite Sirah and Barbera bring added complexity to the field blend. The 2018 is one of the best wines readers will find for the money. Quite simply, it is a screaming value." - Antonio Galloni, 4/2020