



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 2019

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 varieties 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 ensures cool nights and preserves acidity and freshness.

Farming: The Gibson Block Syrah 2019 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: Predominantly Syrah, old vine field blend.

Fermentation: In stainless steel tanks

Aging: 18 months in neutral barrels

Alcohol: 14.9%

VINTAGE

The 2019 Harvest brought another fantastic year of smooth weather with a slow-paced, even-growing season. Temperatures were a bit cooler than average, leading to picking a week or so later than typical norms. Fire showed up in late October adding to the stress of the season, however, our grapes were picked by then. The wines show great depth, measured ripeness, and wonderful retained freshness.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

95

"Deep ruby-purple, the 2019 Gibson Block Syrah has a core of cassis and soaring violet perfume with accents of coffee beans, dark chocolate, aniseed and mint. The full-bodied palate is powerful and concentrated with broody, iron-laced fruits, pleasantly chewy tannins and bright freshness elevating floral perfume on the finish." -E.B 7/22

92 Wine Enthusiast

95 James Suckling