



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 2021 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 ensures cool nights and preserves acidity and freshness.

Farming: The Gibson Block Syrah 2021 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: 14.8%

VINTAGE

2021's extremely cold and dry winter coupled with a windy spring made for a lighter yielding crop and small berries. These tiny clusters and berries went through the mild growing season with accelerated ripeness and made for a darker more intense wine. Harvest happened a week early across all varietals. Flavors were riper, denser, and showcased more red fruit than other vintages. This was a stellar growing season and the resultant wines are fresh and bright now but are built to age gracefully.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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"The 2021 Gibson Block Syrah comes from an incredible block of vines in McDowell Valley, planted more than 135 years ago. It's bursting with kaleidoscopic scents of wild berry preserves, Luxardo cherries and apricot plus touches of garrigue, potpourri, aniseed and game meats. The full-bodied palate is pleasantly rustic in style, its softly chewy tannins supporting concentrated fruit. It has plenty of refreshing acidity to balance and a tremendously spicy finish. Yum!" -E.B 10/23