



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 2019

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 dating 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, estate which is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, effectively acting like a sink where cool air collects at night, preserving acidity and freshness. The Petite Sirah comes from the Angeli Estate vineyard in Alexander 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 2019 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: 65% Syrah, 22% Grenache, 10% Petite Sirah, 3% Viognier
Fermentation: The Syrah is co-fermented with a small amount of Viognier for aromatic lift and blended with Grenache and Petite Sirah
Aging: 18 months in neutral oak
Alcohol: 14.7%

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. As per the recent Northern California pattern, fire showed up in late October adding to the stress of the season. Grapes were picked by then and the wines show great depth, measured ripeness, and wonderful retained freshness.



96

"A blend of Syrah, Grenache, Petite Sirah and Viognier, the 2019 Christo has a deep ruby-purple color and alluring scents of blueberry jam and cassis with accents of loamy earth, violet, coffee beans and iron. The full-bodied palate is powerful yet silky, with seamless acidity and gobs of pure violet perfume on the long, layered finish. It's easy to drink now but offers a decade or more of cellaring potential." -E.B 7/22

93 Wine Enthusiast

93 James Suckling

92 Wine Spectator