



MARIETTA

2018 CHRISTO

ESTATE GROWN
RHÔNE-STYLE RED WINE

BLEND

60% Syrah, 24% Grenache,
12% Petite Sirah, 4% Viognier

AGING

18 months in neutral barrels

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

15.0%

PRODUCTION

5,800 cases

RELEASE DATE

Spring 2021

SUGGESTED DRINKING WINDOW

Drink now or age up to ten years

HARVEST NOTES

The 2018 Harvest was a grower's dream, but it was not without its exciting moments. Spring rains encouraged healthy roots and set up great canopies. The fruit set and cluster development was flawless. Then August and September clocked in as mild, even bordering on cool. Suddenly we found ourselves looking at the crop's development potentially stalling out but the vines kept working and the first lovely, perfectly ripe fruit was harvested in September. Early October rains soaked the second half of the crop and elicited fears of rot and lost fruit as more storms lined up. Miraculously, the storms failed to materialize and we had a long, dry 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.

WINE NOTES

The cool weather throughout August and September meant the grapes for Christo were afforded maximum hang-time to develop deep, dark intensity without the ripeness that would yield soaring alcohols. Already a late region, McDowell's last Syrah was picked in November in 2018. Violet, ripe plum, and sage combine to create an evocative nose with hints of charcuterie and iron-like minerality adding an undercurrent of wildness. On the palette, dried strawberries, dark chocolate and black tea richly coat every available surface leaving a chewiness that speaks to aging. Named and styled after Marietta's founder, Chris Bilbro, this wine is a conundrum of opposites: extracted, intensely flavorful, yet somehow gentle and welcoming.



FAMILY SERIES

Our history of family winemaking goes back four generations in Sonoma County. At current count, there have been seven different winemakers in the family. Each has had their own focus and style. The unifying elements have been family, hard work, passion, and a love of the creative process that is winemaking. Our Family Series consists of a Zinfandel, a Cabernet Sauvignon, and a Rhône-style red wine. All three are carefully crafted from Estate Grown grapes from our properties in Northern Sonoma County, the McDowell and Hopland Valleys, and the Yorkville Highlands.

PRAISE FOR 2016 CHRISTO

93 points

The 2016 Christo, Marietta's Syrah-based blend, is terrific. Black cherry, chocolate, leather, licorice and spice give the wine much of its dark, brooding feel. Powerful and intense, but with good freshness, the 2016 is wonderfully complete and absolutely delicious.

— Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*,
Spring 2019

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