



MARIETTA

## 2018 GIBSON BLOCK

ESTATE GROWN  
SYRAH  
MCDOWELL VALLEY

AGING

*18 months in neutral barrels*

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

*15.1%*

PRODUCTION

*1,150 cases*

RELEASE DATE

*Spring 2021*

SUGGESTED DRINKING WINDOW

*Drink now or age up to fifteen 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 were 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 fruit loss 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.

TASTING NOTES

The Gibson Block is the heart of the McDowell Valley AVA. It is planted with some of the oldest Syrah and Grenache in California. This ancient, dry farmed mixed block next to the original Gibson Homestead has been producing grapes for over a hundred years. As a result of the vine age and miniscule yield, this wine is dark and intense. A heady mix of mulberry and lavender dominate the nose, with an edge of cinnamon stick. Broad, mouth-coating tannins are tethered to a core of smooth, sleek, powerful texture that is balanced by focused acid. Delicious with hearty fare now, and built to age.



### SINGLE ESTATE SERIES

Our Single Estate Series represents our purest expressions of place. Having worked with the fruit from tens of vineyards over the years, we have identified three special sites that we believe create extraordinary wine. Produced in limited quantities, these wines have ultra-developed acid and tannin profiles and achieve a beautiful balance of intense structure and bright aromatics.

### PRAISE FOR 2016 GIBSON BLOCK

## 95 points

*The 2016 Syrah Estate Gibson Block is the star of this range from Marietta. From a dry-farmed site planted in the 1880s, the Gibson Block is powerful, sumptuous and racy to the core. A whole range of complementary varieties give the Gibson Block striking inner perfume and lift to play off the intense dark fruit, while silky tannins add to the wine's racy, inviting personality.*

— Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*,  
Spring 2019