



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 2021

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: 68% Syrah, 20% Grenache, 8% Petite Sirah, 4% Viognier

Fermentation: The Syrah is co-fermented with a small amount of Viognier for aromatic lift and blended with Grenache and Petite Sirah

Aging: 16 months in neutral oak

Alcohol: 14.9%

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.

TASTING NOTES

"This dark saucy number is redolent with licorice, slate, and molasses. Brighter notes of honey and lavender lift the nose while added complexity comes in with warm spice and pepper. The mouth is deep, full, and smooth, with a touch of chalk in addition to the broadly scaffolded tannins. A surprising amount of fresh acid leads juicy blackberry across the mouth and focuses the heft of this wine to perfectly balance between joyful exuberance and brooding intensity." - Scot Bilbro, Winemaker

