



MARIETTA CELLARS

Winemaker Scot Bilbro has been at the helm of Marietta since 2012; his father, Chris Bilbro, founded the winery in 1978.



Game Trail Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Yorkville Highlands, 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

The Yorkville Highlands are the mountain pass between the north end of Alexander Valley and the west end of Anderson Valley. From a high elevation site with coastal influence and large diurnal shifts, the Game Trail Cabernet offers an intense, fragrant, savory, and fresh style of Cabernet that speaks of site and demands to be paired with food. This area, with trails worn by mushroom hunters and wild game that travel through the woods, was a refuge for Chris Bilbro, who hunted here and searched for Chanterelles. The mushroom on the label is a tribute to this unique place and its significance.

VINEYARD

The small block of Cabernet Sauvignon used for the Game Trail Cabernet is perched looking south from 1,400 feet elevation up on the ridge. Coastal influence and large diurnal swings create small berries, thick skins, deep pigmentation, and tons of structure. Clone 6 Cabernet sets sparingly with berries the size of blueberries and no fruit to fruit contact, so it is cane pruned and left to hang as many clusters as possible.

Farming: The Game Trail Cabernet Sauvignon 2021 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Cabernet Sauvignon

Fermentation: In stainless steel tanks

Aging: 16 months in neutral barrel

Alcohol: 14.7%

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 varieties. 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

"With a dark, dusty, salty mix of carpaccio, sage, and thyme, this mountain Cabernet with coastal influences cranks up with nuance and tension. Inky mulberry stains the mouth followed by puckery intensity, with a silty, dense finish. Deep and clean, tasting is akin to diving into a shaded mineral swimming hole surrounded by craggy boulders and emerging refreshed, vibrating, and wildly awake.- Scot Bilbro, Winemaker