



2017 CHRISTO

ESTATE GROWN RHÔNE-STYLE RED WINE

BLEND

63% Syrah, 28% Grenache, 6% Petite Sirah, 3% Viognier

AGING

18 months in neutral barrels

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

14.8%

PRODUCTION

4,000 cases

RELEASE DATE

Spring 2020

SUGGESTED DRINKING WINDOW

Drink now or age up to ten years

HARVEST NOTES

After two late years in a row, 2017 progressed smoothly with perfectly timed budbreak and fruit set. Then life reminded us how unpredictable things can be. The 2017 Tubbs Fire ripped through Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake Counties in October and promptly moved everyone's focus from grapes and wine to life and death. Five of the most destructive fires ever in California ravaged the landscape and the community is still recovering. The loss of homes, businesses, and life was astounding. Luckily the impact on the wine industry was minimal with the majority of the North Coast's grapes having been harvested prior to the fires. At Marietta we feel blessed to not have had any property or personal losses to the business or any of our employees. The resultant 2017 wines are fresh, pure, and powerful and we are enjoying them with a renewed sense of gratitude.

WINE NOTES

Brought into the winery early in 2017 due to a combination of early year and smaller than normal crop, this was harvested in mid-September. With the small crop and small berries, concentration wasn't an issue though picking decisions were difficult as the acid was slow to decrease yet displayed a huge shift in tank. We decided to pick early and are thrilled with the brightness and depth without over-ripe flavors. A huge expression of tar, cocoa powder, violets and structure, this Syrah-based wine is brightened by vibrant Grenache, lengthened by Petite Sirah, and lifted aromatically via co-fermentation with Viognier. Named and styled after Marietta's founder, Chris Bilbro, this wine is gentle but powerful, pleasurable but deep, and refined while raw.

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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