



## 2017 GAME TRAIL

ESTATE GROWN CABERNET SAUVIGNON  
YORKVILLE HIGHLANDS

### AGING

*20 months in neutral barrels*

### ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

*14.7%*

### PRODUCTION

*750 cases*

### RELEASE DATE

*Spring 2020*

### SUGGESTED DRINKING WINDOW

*Drink now or age up to fifteen 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.

### TASTING NOTES

The Yorkville Highlands are the mountain pass traversed between the north end of Alexander Valley and the west end of Anderson Valley. Our small block of Game Trail Cabernet is perched looking south from 1400 feet elevation upon that 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. It is always our latest pick of the year and 2017 was no exception. Though skies had stayed clear and without smoke in Yorkville, we were still concerned and tested the wine after a year in barrel and were thrilled that the clean chemistry matched our experience tasting the wine. We find a purity in this wine: more acid and fore-mouth focused than other Cabernet, it is tart, bright, perfumed and refreshing.

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## 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 GAME TRAIL

# 94 points

*Marietta's 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Game Trail is powerful, dark and quite savory. Smoke, tobacco, gravel, menthol, cedar and licorice all run through this bold, pungent mountain Cabernet. There is quite a bit of aromatic intensity to play off the blackberry fruit in this strapping young wine. Give it a few years in bottle for the tannins to soften.*

— Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*,  
Spring 2019