



MARIETTA

## 2017 GIBSON BLOCK

ESTATE GROWN SYRAH  
MCDOWELL VALLEY

AGING

*18 months in neutral barrels*

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME

*14.9%*

PRODUCTION

*220 cases*

RELEASE DATE

*Fall 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

Planted in the 1880s, the Gibson Block is a mixed block of mostly Syrah with a small amount of Petite Sirah, Peloursin, Trousseau Noir and Grenache and many other obscure varieties. This Syrah has been dry-farmed for over 130 years and produces very low yields of dark, rich wine with a unique expression. In 2017, the vines themselves told us it was time to pick as they started to shut down early after such prolonged dry conditions. We harvested the meager 1.5 tons an acre in early October at 25 Brix with great acid and already turning leaves. Chalky, gentle, tar-filled and long this wine is a museum of tannins. Floral and savory components add subtlety to this behemoth which finishes quite cleanly and quietly for such an intense wine.

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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 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