



# MARIETTA CELLARS

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



## Angeli Zinfandel 2017 Anderson Valley, 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

Marietta Cellars sits at the entrance to a small canyon off Alexander Valley. Known as Angeli Ranch after the family who originally settled there in 1886, the property's vineyards connect gravel swales from the Russian River to terraced knolls invisible from the valley floor. The extremes of this site create a wine that is powerful but has surprising elegance and clarity.

### VINEYARD

The Angeli Ranch was sold to Chris Bilbro in 1990 by Viola Angeli, whose family had originally settled the land in 1886. When Viola was ready to sell the property, she offered it to Chris Bilbro because he had purchased the grapes from the ranch for many years and always visited with Viola regularly. 35 acres of vineyards connect gravel swales from the Russian River to terraced knolls invisible from the valley floor. The Angeli Zinfandel takes its name from the homesteading family and exemplifies the cool effect of these unique vineyards in a bright, tense, and stony expression of Zinfandel.

*Farming:* The Angeli Zinfandel 2017 is made from 100% estate fruit, all of which is organically farmed

### WINEMAKING

*Variety:* 100% Zinfandel

*Fermentation:* A unique approach of cool fermentations and 15 months of neutral barrel aging emphasize freshness in the Angeli Zinfandel.

*Aging:* 15 months in neutral barrels

*Alcohol:* 14.8%

### VINTAGE

After two late years in a row, 2017 progressed smoothly with perfectly timed budbreak and fruit set. Harvest was early and relatively low yielding, although small berries brought excellent concentration. Picking decisions were difficult as the acid was slow to decrease, but in the end the early pick lead to delightful brightness and depth without over-ripe flavors.

## vinous

94

*"The 2017 Zinfandel Angeli, from a site in Alexander Valley, is rich, pliant and expressive. Super-ripe black cherry, hard candy, new leather, lavender and mint give the Angeli decidedly dark shades of expression. This sumptuous, flavorful Zinfandel should drink well for another decade or so."* - ANTONIO GALLONI, 4/2020

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