

SMITH-MADRONE

2018 Estate Riesling

Aromatically, the wine opens with Meyer lemons, pomelo, orange flowers, and just a dab of mandarin orange hiding shyly behind a rose bush. This is all backed up with a solid dose of minerality. On the palate the wine is racy and beautifully balanced with a backbone of juicy fruit acidity. Wonderfully stylish and delicious and built to last. Drink now, or twenty years from now. Seriously.

This wine is made from mountain grown grapes, honoring the international tradition of Riesling which thrives on steep hillsides. At Smith-Madrone our goal is to make artisanal wines which are distinctive and are an expression of both the vintage and us as vintners, but above all else, are wines which bring pleasure to the senses. Every year our wine is made from the same vineyards, pruned by the same people in the same way, cultivated in exactly the same manner and harvested at similar levels of maturity, yet Mother Nature stamps each vintage with a unique set of flavors, senses and character. Vintage dating is a celebration of that uniqueness and diversity.

Appellation:	Napa Valley
Sub-appellation:	Spring Mountain District
Varietal content:	100% Riesling
Alcohol:	13.3%
pH:	3.04
TA:	7.68 grams/l
Residual sugar:	0.7%
Harvested:	September 6-8, 2018
Cases produced:	1,611 cases
Winemakers and winegrowers:	Charles Smith & Stuart Smith

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FAR MOUNTAIN

From vineyards located in remote mountain areas of Sonoma, Far Mountain produces wines as dazzling and expressive as its sites.



Myrna Chardonnay 2020

Sonoma, California

ESTATE

Far Mountain is based on the belief that some of the greatest potential for wine in California - and anywhere in the world - exists in remote pockets in the mountains of the Sonoma Valley. The growers they work with have taken decades of risks in both planting their vineyards and the farming choices they make today. The winery's work is to channel the drama of these surroundings into wines that dazzle with energy and stand out immediately. Wines that bring a sheer pleasure in their flavors and textures, as well as unfold slowly, with never ending detail and fascination. It is a specific vision, literally chiselled by the landscape.

WINE

Myrna's focused intensity of fruit and texture reflects its two extreme mountain and hillside vineyard sites. The word Myrna translates to "beloved", a reflection of Far Mountain's feelings about truly great Chardonnay: wines that can translate from their sites intense minerality, texture and a dazzling spectrum of flavors.

VINEYARDS

Bald Mountain: The second highest peak in the Mayacamas range, this remote vineyard was planted in 1972 on pure fractured and tectonic rock. The vines on these poor soils of volcanic origin have been dry farmed since 1972. The vines are heritage clones (Old Wente) on St. George rootstock. The exotic perfume and spice, the depth and texture, and the finishing rocky lift of the wine are due to the Bald Mountain fruit.

Thornton Vineyard: Directly west of the town of Sonoma, 30 year old vines are planted on gravelly clay loam at the base of Sonoma Mountain and see a cooling effect from both altitude and coastal influence. Thornton contributes the bracing backbone and citrus flavors in the wine. *Farming:* Both vineyards are farmed organically.

WINEMAKING

Variety: 100% Chardonnay, 71% from Bald Mountain and 29% from Thornton, whole cluster pressed by fractional pressure into barrel

Fermentation: Native yeast fermentation in barrel followed by lees contact throughout aging, with occasional stirring; never racked until blending before bottling.

Aging: 12 months, 18% new oak, remainder 1, 2, 3 and 4-year-old barrels

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

2020 was a dry growing season. Winter was moderate temperatures with just above 10 inches of rain, setting off budbreak 10 days earlier than usual. A mild spring slowed things down allowing healthy canopy growth. Hot summer days, encouraged the vines to ripen slowly and clusters to develop mountain complexity. Harvest began 10 days earlier than previous years. The vines self regulated and showed lower yields from the very beginning. There were signs of concentration and density that amplified the character of the mountain site. Dry farming, elevation, and older vines have become the signature in these wines which allows the team to offset challenges and variabilities of a vintage.

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WINE ENTHUSIAST

"This well-balanced and grandly structured wine layers toast, almonds and a hint of wood smoke over Bosc pears, fennel bulb slices and marzipan for a rich blend of fruits and savory accents" - J.G, 11/2022

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Wine Spectator

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Vinous

PAUL HOBBS

2021 PINOT NOIR RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY

VINEYARD

- Clonal selection: 115, 777, 667, Pommard, 114, 113, Swan, 2a
- Rootstocks: 101-14, 420a, rg, 3309
- Sites: Various exposures, and soils including Sebastopol Series
- Yield: 3.74 tons/acre

GROWING SEASON

One of the best vintages in recent memory, 2021 will be remembered for its intensely flavored berries, a smooth harvest and most importantly, exquisitely balanced, nuanced, and vivid wines. The season began with historically low rainfall which, coupled with a cold winter, delayed bud break. However, despite the cooler start to the year, the remainder of the season proved to be temperate with no relevant unfavorable weather events. Warm temps and mild May weather conditions, for example, favored a compact bloom and an extremely uniform fruit set with highly desirable small berries and moderately sized, well-spaced clusters. Meanwhile, summer's long, cool mornings and warm afternoons permitted the fruit on the vine to take a slow, leisurely ride to full maturity—excellent for the physiological fruit development we prize. Harvest kicked-off punctually at 12:01 am, September 6, and after six glorious weeks, blessed our house with a fine crop of remarkably delicious, energetic, young wines.

HARVEST

- Hand-harvested at night, shears only
- Harvest dates: September 8 - 24

WINEMAKING

- Hand-sorted while still cold from the field
- 12% whole cluster inclusion
- Fermented in small, open-top stainless steel tanks with indigenous yeasts
- 5-day cold soak, 15 day maceration
- Gentle punchdowns
- Spontaneous malolactic fermentation in barrel
- Aged 9 months in French oak barrels; 33% new
- Coopers: François Frères, Cadus, Louis Latour, Billon, Leroi, Remond, Taransaud, and others
- Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered; August 2022

TASTING NOTES

Our estates play a leading role in this wine with fruit selected across the appellation for its purity, richness, and elegance. Violet in hue, the 2021 vintage entices with pomegranate, dark cherry, and black tea. The voluptuous texture fuses with layered notes of boysenberry, bergamot, and hints of sage. As it moves across the palate both acid and fine-grained tannins are flawlessly integrated, accentuated by a red clay minerality. This is a refined and graceful wine with lively acidity, leading to a long finish.



MARIETTA CELLARS

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



Old Vine Red Lot 74

Sonoma/Mendocino, 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 dating 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

Affectionately known as "OVR," Marietta's Old Vine Red is a proprietary red wine made to replicate the field blends of the old vineyards in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. A groundbreaking combination of varietals and multiple vintages first produced in 1982, this wine has blazed the path for red blends for decades. With an historic underground following, it is one of the longest lasting and best known red blends produced today. Predominantly composed of fresh, young Zinfandel, OVR gets its backbone from Petite Sirah with about three years of age in neutral barrel, and its savory component from Syrah with about two years of age in neutral barrel. Occasionally, other varieties like Merlot, Barbera, Carignan, or Grenache will be blended in for other elements. The goal is always an enjoyable table wine made with integrity that combines pure fruit, a supple mouth feel and a rich, solid structure.

WINEMAKING

Variety: Primarily Zinfandel from 2021, barrel aged Syrah, Petite Sirah and Merlot. Small amounts of Grenache and Barbera complete the wine. Merlot is adding core focus and tautness while Grenache and Barbera bring acid and high notes.

Fermentation: Fermented in stainless tank. Individual grape varietals fermented and aged separately.

Aging: 60% was aged in neutral barrels and 40% was aged in stainless steel.

Alcohol: 13.5%

VINTAGE

A combination of wine from the 2021 and previous vintages, Lot 74 of Old Vine Red melds the freshness of young wines with the savory and silky characters of aged wines to deliver a refreshing, layered, and pleasurable wine. Each "lot" of OVR is blended to produce the best possible wine from separately aged individual varietals

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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"The NV Old Vine Red Lot 74 is primarily Zinfandel, with some Syrah, Petite Sirah, Carignan, Grenache and Barbera. Spicy and easy to drink, it has aromas of red and black cherries, mint, bitter chocolate and allspice with earthy undertones. The medium-bodied palate is finely chalky and refreshing, with spicy fruit and an easygoing finish. This will be enjoyable with almost any dish at the table and, as always, overdelivers for the price.." - E.B. 10/23



ESPRIT DE TABLAS

2018



The Tablas Creek Vineyard 2018 Esprit de Tablas is our flagship red blend, chosen from the best lots of four estate-grown varietals propagated from budwood cuttings from the Château de Beaucastel estate. The wine is based on the dark red fruit, earth, spice and mid-palate richness of Mourvèdre, with additions of Grenache for forward fruit, approachability and lushness, Syrah for mineral, aromatics, and back-palate tannins, and Counoise for brambly spice and acidity.

TASTING NOTES

A deep brooding Mourvedre nose of loamy redcurrant and roasted meats, new leather and black plum. The mouth shows spicy licorice and nutmeg lift over baked plums and Mourvedre's signature plum skin tannin maintaining balance with the wine's mouth-coating texture. The long, richly tannic finish, with lingering flavors of wood smoke, roasted meat, and crushed rock, promises more rewards to come with cellar aging. We recommend that you drink either between now and 2023 or again starting in 2026 any time over the subsequent two decades.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The 2018 vintage saw an almost ideal balance of vine health and stress, as is often the case with the first dry year after a very wet one. Although rainfall was just 70% of normal, the rains came late, delaying the onset of bud-break and the beginning of the growing season. The cool weather continued most of the year, punctuated by a six-week heat wave in July and early August. But temperatures moderated before picking began, and harvest proceeded under slightly cooler than normal conditions, allowing us to pick without stress and producing fruit (and wines) with intense flavors and good balancing acidity.

The grapes for our Esprit de Tablas were grown on our certified organic and biodynamic estate vineyard.

The grapes were fermented using native yeasts in a mix of 1500-gallon wooden upright fermenters, open-top tanks and closed stainless steel fermenters. After pressing, the wines were moved into barrel and allowed to complete malolactic fermentation. The Esprit's components were fermented separately, then selected for Esprit, blended in June 2019 and aged a year in foudre before bottling in July 2020.

Appellation

Adelaida District Paso Robles

Blend

40% Mourvèdre
27% Syrah
23% Grenache
10% Counoise

FOOD PAIRINGS

Game
Dark Fowl (duck)
Richly flavored stews
Lamb
Asian preparation of red meats (beef stir fry)

13.5% Alcohol by Volume

4325 Cases Produced



HERZOG

Variations | American Oak

CABERNET SAUVIGNON | NORTH COAST | 2021

Herzog Variations Oak is a special wine series that journeys beyond the variations of California wine country, and into a Battle of the Barrels. We start with North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon separated into two different types of oak barrels and see which one will come out on top. Oak barrels are a winemaker's spice rack, allowing them to vary the color, flavor, profile and texture of the wine.

HARVEST ANALYSIS

ABV	pH	TA (g/L)	Brix
15.0%	3.72	6.00	25.7°

STYLE & DESCRIPTION

American barrels are made from White Oak averaging from 80-100 years old and known for wide grains that quickly release bold, rich aromas and sweetness to the wine. We start with North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon- grown in well drained and volcanic soil, then age it for 9 months in 100% new American oak barrels, enhancing tantalizing notes of fresh black plums and a creamy rich texture, finished with hints of butterscotch and toasted pecan.

AGING

This wine can age gracefully for 5-8 years if stored at 55°F-60°.



HERZOG

Variations | French Oak

CABERNET SAUVIGNON | NORTH COAST | 2021

Herzog Variations Oak is a special wine series that journeys beyond the variations of California wine country, and into a Battle of the Barrels. We start with North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon separated into two different types of oak barrels and see which one will come out on top. Oak barrels are a winemaker's spice rack, allowing them to vary the color, flavor, profile and texture of the wine.

HARVEST ANALYSIS

ABV	pH	TA (g/L)	Brix
15.0%	3.77	5.66	25.7°

STYLE & DESCRIPTION

French oak comes from one of 5 forests, and average between 120-150 years old before being made into barrels. They are known to give the wine subtle and spicy nuances with a silky texture. We start with North Coast Cabernet Sauvignon- grown in well drained, red volcanic soil, then age it for nine months in 100% new French oak barrels, highlighting bold aromas of ripened cranberry, smooth round tannins and a satin texture, finished with notes of creamy oak, vanilla and spice.

AGING

This wine can age gracefully for 5-8 years if stored at 55°F-60°.