



## HOWARD PARK

MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

# 2024 HOWARD PARK SCOTSDALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

## DISTINGUISHED SITES

Cabernet Sauvignon from our Abercrombie vineyard, located in the Mount Barker subregion of the Great Southern, is crafted to highlight the distinctive varietal and regional qualities of our best sites. Planted to the Houghton clones of Cabernet in 1976, in this cooler, continental climate, the vineyard sits on a north facing, elevated slope where it captures ample sun to fully ripen Cabernet Sauvignon.

## TASTING NOTES

Brambly dark fruits, cassis and black plum form a concentrated bouquet, complemented by mulberry, wild blueberry and a gentle earthy lift with hints of gravel and graphite. The palate is generous and flowing, unfolding in layers of blackcurrant, mulberry and dark berry richness, with touches of dusty mocha and subtle spice carrying through. Fine, chalky tannins gather the flavour and provide shape, leaving a long, settled finish that lingers on dark fruit and stony savouriness.

## VINTAGE

The 2024 vintage was early, compressed and fast-paced. The cool, wet 2023 winter weather disappeared quickly and was replaced by a dry, warm spring. Above-average temperatures and almost no rainfall led to early budburst and perfect growing conditions for vines. Canopy growth was good, flowering occurred early and went through quickly, leading to early veraison in all varieties. In late December, colour could be seen in Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz, pointing to a very early vintage, and January saw a continuation of the dry conditions.

2024 was also a vintage with abundant marri blossom, known as a “mast year”, and there was little to no grape loss due to the native silvereye birds. This usually occurs every four years or so, as it takes the trees time to muster sufficient resources to produce a massive flowering.

Harvest began in mid-January, four weeks earlier than usual. Fruit continued to ripen rapidly and early attention to detail in the vineyard paid dividends. Picking dates needed careful consideration to ensure physiological maturity with vibrancy of fruit expression, and the narrow windows of opportunity to harvest required skilful scheduling of vineyard and winery teams.

All varieties reached full maturity earlier than we are used to, and lower yields in some varieties and vineyards led to a concentration of aromas and flavours. This bodes well for some superb quality wines from 2024 in both Margaret River and Great Southern.

## VINEYARDS

Vineyard: Abercrombie Blocks 1A, 1B & 2.

Location: Mount Barker, Great Southern.

Soils: shallow lateritic gravels over sandy, clay loam.

Aspect: North easterly slope

Clone: Houghton, planted 1976

## WINEMAKING

Small parcels were hand-picked and hand sorted to remove any unwanted material before fermentation. Fermentation occurred in closed stainless steel fermenters and small open top fermenters. Selected parcels remained on skins after fermentation to further enhance the tannin profile while others were pressed at dryness to capture fruit vibrancy. Each batch was matured separately in order to build a wine history over time. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and matured in French oak (~ 25% new) for 18 months prior to blending, fining and bottling.



**Variety:**  
Cabernet Sauvignon

**Region:**  
Great Southern

**Cellaring:**  
Drink now or cellar for up to 15 years.

**Analysis:**  
Alcohol: 13.5% v/v  
Acidity: 6.86 g/l  
pH 3.42  
Residual Sugar: 0.63 g/l