



HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

2020 HOWARD PARK ABERCROMBIE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Howard Park's winemaking philosophy is to craft elegant, age-worthy wines from our best sites in the Margaret River & Great Southern regions of Western Australia. Critical site selection, meticulous viticultural practice and detailed winemaking underline each Icon wine.

In name, the Icon wines pay homage to significant members of the Burch family. The Abercrombie is Howard Park's finest Cabernet Sauvignon. Jeff Burch, the owner of Howard Park, has named this wine after his Great Grandfather and mentor, Walter Abercrombie.

TASTING NOTES

The influence of a settled and sunny growing season in Margaret River are immediately evident in the impeccable presentation of this wine. It displays a compelling, fruit-centric perfume with lifted blackberry and blackberry-leaf aromatics, ripe plum skins and intriguing strawberry scents supported by an undercurrent of cinnamon, cedar and crushed gravel. There is a sublime quality to the structure, with present, balanced acidity and extremely refined tannins delivering flavour intensity to every corner of the palate. The integration of oak brings gravitas without superfluous weight and will assist to reveal a cavalcade of regional flavour signatures as the wine evolves over two decades - a longevity belied by the accessibility of the young wine but affirmed upon contemplation of the supreme harmony of its effortlessly long finish. The 2020 Abercrombie is a wine that joyously celebrates the synergy of variety and place for which Margaret River is justifiably revered.

VINTAGE

In the cool and temperate climate of the South West of Western Australia, the winter of 2019 gave less than average rainfall, and an expectation that yields from the 2020 vintage would be low. As the earth gradually faced more to the sun, spring uncoiled its impulsive nature, followed by a temperate warm, dry summer - setting the stage for a promising outcome.

With veraison came the flowering of the native marri blossoms to avert the attention of our indigenous resident bird population away from the fruit. Such an event negates one annoyance at least. The middle autumnal period continued to be dry, with a mild to warm temperature which began to impact vintage in early March as all varieties readied for an early harvest. Our intake was regular and moderated with a good progression from early whites to late reds; boasting dry, warm conditions throughout. 2020 is yet another vintage from Western Australia with little complaint as we empathised with our eastern state colleagues, so ravaged by wild fires.

In summary, the vintage is very good yet slow to show its true potential. Early varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay show good varietal purity, with subtle, lasting flavours and the later reds such as Shiraz show good depth of flavour, good perfume, fine tannin and poise.

VINEYARDS

This wine is sourced from Leston Vineyard in Margaret River

Vine age: Leston Block 29 - 9 years

Clone: Houghton selection

Soils: deep lateritic gravels

Aspect: westerly slope

WINEMAKING

Small, pristine parcels of fruit were hand-picked, sorted, and destemmed prior to fermentation. Fermentation occurred in small open stainless steel vats with careful twice daily plunging of the cap to extract flavours and tannins from the skins. Select parcels remained on skins post fermentation to further enhance the tannin profile while others were pressed at dryness to capture maximum fruit vibrancy. Each batch was matured separately in French oak barriques in order to maximise the choices when it came blending. This wine was assembled from specially selected barrels and was bottled after a light fining and filtration.

Barrel maturation: 18 months in 30% new, 30% second use, and 40% older French oak barriques.



Varieties:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Region:
Margaret River

Cellaring:
20+ years

Analysis:
Alcohol: 14% v/v
pH: 3.53
Acidity: 6.37 g/l
Residual Sugar: 1.24 g/l