



**HOWARD PARK**  
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

## 2019 HOWARD PARK FLINT ROCK SYRAH

### REGIONAL RANGE

The name *Flint Rock* epitomizes the fine mineral structure and savoury elegance of wines grown in the wildly remote and awesomely beautiful Great Southern of Western Australia. Our regional selection draws upon the varietal heroes of the 3 primary sub-regions; Mt Barker, Porongurup and Frankland River to craft wines with regional typicity and purity. The continental, cool climate of the Great Southern is favoured for growing Syrah. In the Frankland and Mount Barker sub-regions, where Syrah reigns, the wines display a great intensity of dark fruits with traces of spice, earth and guiding tannins.

### TASTING NOTES

Garnet in colour with a lively bouquet of black and red fruits with subtle spice, musk and hibiscus notes. The palate is fleshy and mouthfilling with Satsuma plum, mulberry, boysenberry fruit flavours plus Hoisin sauce notes and sweet spice flavours. The blend of fruit from our Frankland River and Mount Barker vineyards really bring a sense of play and complexity with spiced, finely structured parcels of grapes combined with bold, primary flavoured parcels. 15% wholebunch fermentation adds wild depth of flavour and pleasant chewy tannins; balanced by refreshing natural acidity and fine-grained oak texture.

### VINTAGE

The 2018 growing season ended with a wet winter, followed by a mild spring that opened the 2019 vintage. In Western Australia the summer was atypical, remaining mild throughout. These cooler conditions dictated a later start to the harvest but allowed for a gradual and measured ripening of grapes.

The majority of white varietals were picked over a protracted period from early to late March, in dry conditions. Some fungal disease did proliferate which required an extra degree of care and attention at harvest. These moderate conditions continued through autumn as the reds began to trickle in from mid-April. Rain in mid-April bothered the vines little, yet bird pressure and early autumn control burns remained imminent threats.

For all the trials and tribulations that vintage brought, the quality outcomes from 2019 are good. The whites have retained purity and vibrancy, which is always a signature of the slightly cooler years, and the reds show a concentration of flavour, elegance, definition and supple tannins.

### VINEYARDS

The Flint Rock Syrah is a selection from Frankland River and Mount Barker. Each sub region brings its own personality to the wine. Frankland, typically bold and primary in fruit while Mount Barker is finer and spicy. Tempered by low rainfall and growing in lateritic gravelly/sandy loams of variable fertility and water holding capacity, the vines are of low to moderate yield.

### WINEMAKING

Vinification in small open vat fermenters with gentle cap management to facilitate the extraction of fine fruit tannin and strong varietal flavour. Select parcels were fermented with 15% whole bunch to elevate spice aromatics. Maturation was for 15 months in mostly old French oak.



**Variety:**  
Syrah

**Region:**  
Great Southern

**Cellaring:**  
5 to 7 years

**Analysis:**  
Alcohol: 14.5% v/v  
pH: 3.56  
Acidity: 5.8g/l  
Residual Sugar: 0.8g/l