



**HOWARD PARK**  
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

## 2020 MOUNT BARKER RIESLING

From its beginnings in 1986, Howard Park has made Riesling from the Great Southern wine region of Western Australia. After many years of searching for a Riesling site in the Mount Barker sub-region, the Mount Barrow vineyard was established in 2005. From the 10th growing season, our first Riesling sourced from only the Mount Barker sub-region was made and the tradition continues today.

Growing in old and degraded soils of low fertility, Riesling works hard. It is demanding, sensitive, yet tough enough to thrive in the vagaries of this cool climate. Wines made of Riesling grapes are exceptionally revealing and critical of the environment in which they grow and the human interactions engaged to create them. From Mount Barker, the Riesling grape produces a fine and linear wine with great varietal purity and exactness.

### TASTING NOTES

Intensely perfumed with a bouquet of orange blossoms, jasmine, and lavender. The fruit is on the riper end of the spectrum leaning away from lime in favour of apricot, mandarin, and white peach. Intertwined between stone fruit and citrus lies wisps of talc, wet quartz, and ginger spice. The acidity washes over the palate causing a mouth-watering sensation reminiscent of biting into a crispy granny smith apple. Towards the middle of the palate the richer fruits unveil themselves. Rockmelon, Meyer lemon, and white nectarine culminate in a beguiling blend with classic Riesling acidity underpinning it all. Drink now for an intriguing and delicious dichotomy between richness of fruit and crisp acidity. Cellar for up to 20 years to enjoy the nuanced flavours yet to come.

### 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 Riesling 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

The Mount Barker Riesling is an annual blend of the finest cut of free juice from select vineyards in the Mt. Barker and Porongurup subregions of the Great Southern. The cool sites on our Mt Barrow vineyard dominate the blend. This vineyard is planted on a south facing ridge-top with an elevation of between 285m to 370m.

### WINEMAKING

Each vineyard block is vinified separately in stainless steel tanks. After settling bright, the free run juice is racked before a long and cold fermentation to preserve regional character and delicate fruit flavours. Blending occurs in June of the vintage year, with the objective of showcasing the typicity of each site in the final wine.



**Variety:**  
Riesling

**Region:**  
Mount Barker

**Cellaring:**  
Drink now until 2040

**Analysis:**  
Alcohol: 12.5% v/v  
pH: 3.32  
Acidity: 7.5 g/l  
Residual Sugar: 0.6 g/l