



HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

2023 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

A deep, vibrant crimson in the glass, this Cabernet opens with lifted aromatics of forest berries and a gentle floral note of lavender. Layers of cassis and mulberry unfold beneath, interwoven with savoury nuances of nori, bramble and dried herbs. Earthy hints of ironstone and pencil lead add detail and depth. The palate is driven by red and black fruits—raspberry, boysenberry and ripe red plum—balanced by savoury inflections of rosemary and bay leaf. Elegant yet firmly structured, it carries through to a long, poised finish, framed by fine-boned tannins and a lingering sense of tension.

VINTAGE

Cooler-than-usual temperatures paired with optimal, dry weather set the scene for an extended, yet exceptional vintage in both Margaret River and Great Southern. A moderate season, it was perfect for gentle, even ripening across all grape varieties.

Heavy winter rains recharged soil moisture levels and refilled vineyard dams paving the way for a promising start to the growing season. Cool temperatures lingered making for a mild spring with a lovely, yet late budburst. The weather warmed and rain ceased providing the ideal conditions for flowering, canopy growth and fruit set in Margaret River. Great Southern was cooler and wetter which led to poor fruit set and small bunches reducing yield. However, these lower yields would later lead to fuller fruit ripeness at harvest.

Dry, sunny, and warm weather free from any extreme heat continued throughout summer creating an idyllic atmosphere for steady, prolonged ripening with harvest commencing on the 16 February and not finishing until 22 April. Minimal rain fell during this period allowing the fruit to stay out on the vine until full ripeness and flavour development were achieved while cooling winds ensured good acid retention and freshness.

Some late summer/early autumn rain events delayed the red harvest slightly, however, the rainfall did not lead to any disease pressure, instead, it refreshed canopies and invigorated the vines. Altogether another high-quality, graceful year much like 2022.

VINEYARDS

This wine is sourced from Leston vineyard in Margaret River

Vine age: Leston Block 29 - 15 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 egg fining and filtration.

Barrel maturation: 12 months in 30% new, 30% second use, and 40% older French oak barriques.



Varieties:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Region:
Margaret River

Ccellaring:
20+ years

Analysis:
Alcohol: 14% v/v
pH: 3.4
Acidity: 6.9 g/l
Residual Sugar: 0.5 g/l