



HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

2018 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

Spicy and perfumed, the 2018 marks a return to warmer vintage conditions and with that a return to ripe, red Cabernet fruit accented by savoury undertones that build layers of flavour. Hints of mint, leather, tobacco, spiced fruit cake and red liquorice rise from the core of cherry and red plum. Plush, rounded ripe fruit adds palate weight and opulent texture with silky, smooth tannin coming into play as the wine travels through to a luxurious, long finish. A testament to the power of Cabernet Sauvignon in an idyllic vintage, this wine is well-balanced and persistent making it undeniably enjoyable now, although it will only continue to integrate and evolve with time in bottle.

VINTAGE

The 2018 growing season saw a return to weather conditions more favourable and typical of the past decade in the south west of Western Australia.

Our Margaret River vintage commenced on 19th February with Chardonnay and concluded with Cabernet Sauvignon on 19th April. Good winter rains were followed by a temperate spring, then a moderate to warm summer - a textbook progression of seasons for the ideal vintage.

With veraison came the native marri blossom and a sigh of relief that the annual joust with the native resident birds would be a minor battle not a major war. As autumn progressed, conditions remained fine. Yields were moderate across all varieties and full ripeness and flavour development, concurrent.

The early quality assessment of the 2018 vintage is excellent. White wines are exhibiting very pure and focused varietal notes while the reds show ripe berry flavours and supple tannins

VINEYARDS

This wine is sourced from Leston Vineyard in Margaret River and Abercrombie Vineyard in Mount Barker (WA).

Vine age: Leston Block 29 - 9 years

Clone: Houghton selection

Soils: deep lateritic graves

Aspect: westerly slope

WINEMAKING

The Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon is a bunch selection from Block 29 of the Leston Vineyard, located in the Wilyabrup district of the Margaret River region. This area is renowned for soil profiles considered ideal for Cabernet, and benefits from its balanced climatic location in the middle of the region, yet still close to the Indian Ocean. Block 29 is a dry-grown block of Cabernet planted with a Massale Selection of Houghton clone vines procured from the Abercrombie vineyard in Mount Barker. Some sections of the block were isolated and hand-harvested separately. All the isolated bunches were from the more sheltered eastern side of each vine row.

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: 3.59
Acidity: 6 g/l
Residual Sugar: 0.6 g/l