



HOWARD PARK

MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

2017 HOWARD PARK SCOTSDALE CABERNET SAUVIGNON

DISTINGUISHED SITES THE ABERCROMBIE VINEYARD

Cabernet Sauvignon from our Abercrombie vineyard, located in the Mount Barker sub region of the Great Southern, is crafted to highlight the distinctive varietal and regional qualities of our best sites. Planted to the Houghton clones of Cabernet in 1976, in this cooler, continental climate, the vineyard sits on a north facing, elevated slope where it captures ample sun to fully ripen Cabernet Sauvignon

TASTING NOTES

Florals and sweet spice, cocoa and vanilla give an inviting opulence to the brambly fruits, savoury earth, herb and truffle notes. The palate has a core of soft and supple sweet red fruits around which fine linear fruit tannin and sweet oak wrap to build structure, texture and length. This fine and layered Cabernet from very old vines is characterized by a generosity of flavour and an elegance of structure that which will allow the wine to grow and age with grace.

Tasted July 2019 JM.

VINTAGE

As the seemingly, never-ending vintage of 2017 came to a close in early May, we reflect on a most unusual season. The cold, wet winter / spring of 2016 put annual rainfall above the average of the past decade. With early spring growth slow in the cool conditions, the start to vintage would be delayed by 3 to 4 weeks. In addition, early yield estimates were above average. Anecdotes of the very cool 2006 vintage began to circulate as summer progressed in the same, mild fashion. The one bright light was the comparative data of heat summation between 2006 and 2017 with 2017 apparently warmer. But were we heading for the perfect calamity of high yields in a cool, wet season? Fungal diseases began to thrive in the humid and cool conditions as the white harvest began. Careful fruit selection and some early harvesting was necessary to retain quality. By late March the tone of the vintage was less than upbeat as the heavens opened. The reds were teetering on the edge of disaster, any further rain could turn them to slush. As the mud dried, April delivered an Indian summer with unseasonably dry, warm conditions throughout. This prolonged, ripening phase allowed flavours to develop fully, and the tannins to soften and integrate. With vintage well over now, the outcomes are beyond our expectations. Whites have retained purity and vibrancy, and the reds, stunning concentration, beautifully soft tannins and silky mouthfeel.

VINEYARD

Vineyard: Abercrombie Blocks 1A, 1B & 2. Location : Mount Barker, Great Southern. Soils - shallow lateritic gravels over sandy, clay loam. Aspect : North easterly slope
Clone : Houghton, planted 1976 Harvest date: late April to early May

WINEMAKING

Small parcels are hand-picked and all batches are sorted to remove matter other than grapes before fermentation. Fermentation occurred in closed stainless steel fermenters. Selected parcels remained on skins after fermentation to further enhance the tannin profile while others were pressed at dryness to capture fruit vibrancy. Each batch is matured separately in order to build a wine history over time. Matured to French oak - 40 % new for 18 months before a light fining and filtration prior to bottling.



Variety:
Cabernet Sauvignon

Region:
Mount Barker

Bottled:
February 2019

Cellaring:
12 - 15 years

Analysis:
Alcohol: 14% v/v
Acidity: 6.3 g/l

Margaret River & Great Southern
Western Australia