



MARGARET RIVER • WA



WILLSDOMAIN.COM.AU

MYSTIC SPRING

CABERNET MERLOT

MARGARET RIVER | 2023

COLOUR Medium brick red with obvious purple overtones.

NOSE Lifted dark berry fruits with some cassis and dried herbs.

PALATE Soft, round, smooth, and seamless, with some savoury notes. The flavours linger in the mouth and finish with characteristic Cabernet tannins that are tight, chalky, and very stylish. This 2023 vintage is the best Cabernet Merlot to have appeared under the Mystic Spring label. The warm, dry growing season has produced some outstanding wines, and our decision to pick this prior to pending rains in April has contributed to the intensity, quality, and style of the wine.

WINEMAKING This wine was sourced entirely from the Wills Domain Vineyard Estate. Hand-picked in the cool of the morning, the Cabernet was gently destemmed and pumped to an enclosed fermenter, while the Merlot and Cabernet Franc were destemmed and tipped directly into open-top fermenters. Fermentation was cool at 22°C–26°C for 10 days and pressed when dry before being racked and matured in French oak for ten months.

FOOD PAIRING Tender, succulent lamb shanks, slow-braised to perfection in a rich, aromatic rosemary-infused sauce.

VINTAGE NOTES 2023 has been an outstanding year. Dry conditions prevailed overall without any significant rainfall events or disease pressure. Winter temperatures were lower than average, with below-average rainfall. The relatively cold winter delayed bud bursts, and canopy growth was slow due to a cooler than normal spring. Low rainfall during spring and summer, along with warm sunny days without any heatwave conditions, provided perfect ripening conditions. April was a bit cooler, meaning it took longer for tannins to ripen, and some heavy rains in mid-to-late-April pushed out the harvest for some of our Cabernet blocks. Cabernets from this outstanding vintage are concentrated, dense, and have a very fine tannin structure.

QUICK NOTES:

VINTAGE: 2023

WINEMAKERS: Richard Rowe

GRAPE VARIETY: Cabernet Sauvignon 77.36%, Merlot 18.14%, Cabernet Franc 4.50%

BOTTLED: February 2024

GROWING AREA: Margaret River, WA

ALC %/VOL: 14.0% v/v

STANDARD DRINKS: 8.3

CELLAR POTENTIAL: Optimum 2026, best before 2030

OAK: French

MATURATION: 10 months

