



PITCHFORK



## 2015 MARGARET RIVER CABERNET MERLOT

**VINTAGE:** It has been a carefree run for winemakers in Margaret River over the last eight seasons with perfect season following one after another, and then 2015 came along and took us out of our comfort zone.

In the late part of 2014, in October particularly, we experienced some of the wildest windiest weather for decades, resulting in one of the worst flowerings on record with windy and wet conditions seriously compromising fruit set with the result that the yields of 2015 were the lowest that I have experienced in 23 years of growing grapes in the South West. Ouch.

The season itself was quite warm in the early part, and very dry. We had a break between white and red varieties as the summer stuttered with some cooler weather giving an extended ripening period for red varieties resulting in well coloured and beautifully ripe grapes. The 2015 red wines are wonderfully well balanced medium bodied, even elegantly structured that may prove to be some of the wines of the decade. Albeit in worryingly small quantities.

**WINEMAKING:** This traditional blend of the two classic grape varieties is designed to produce a wine with a complete palate profile. Cabernet Sauvignon is the structurally strongest variety with good flavour in the early and late part of the taste spectrum backed up by fine tannin. Merlot has less flavour persistence than Cabernet Sauvignon but has wonderful mid palate fleshiness giving a sweet fruit centre to the wine. The grapes were sourced from Margaret River; the premier grape producing region of Western Australia. Fermentation in open topped vessels with traditional pump over cap management produced a wine with loads of fruit flavours and background tannin providing structure without astringency. Maturation in French oak barriques for 10 months adds further complexity and structure without dominating the fruit.

**COLOUR:** Vibrant youthful red hues of good depth.

**NOSE:** Ripe berry fruits with chocolate mint characters typical of Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon.

**PALATE:** Good concentration of ripe sweet berry fruits with impressive mid palate fleshiness. Soft round palate profile with ripe tannin at finish.

### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**VINTAGE:** 2015      **VARIETY:** Cabernet Sauvignon 75% Merlot 25%

**ALCOHOL:** 14.5%      **GROWING REGION:** Margaret River

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