

HAY SHED HILL CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

HAY SHED HILL
MARGARET RIVER

The Hay Shed Hill Vineyard Series highlights the character of the fruit grown on this classic vineyard site with distinctive and expressive wines.



This wine showcases the strength of Margaret River for this, the noblest of red wine varieties. This is classic, intense, ripe and elegantly structured Cabernet Sauvignon from one of the great Margaret River vineyards.

VINTAGE: The vintage of 2021 is a bit of a blur in the memory with constant decisions made on the fly at all hours of the day given the unusual weather conditions across Margaret River, and to a lesser extent the Great Southern of Western Australia.

It was a great start to the season with the first really wet winter for several years and therefore good soil moisture entering spring and summer. This is even more important for 'dry grown' (unirrigated) vineyards such as Hay Shed Hill. There were positive signs at budburst with potentially better crop levels than the last two years.

Spring was mild with Chardonnay from Block 6 and Block 8 at Hay Shed Hill being harvested in the first week of February. There was a small break until the avalanche of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon started. In this middle to late part of February and throughout March we experienced multiple episodes of rain, some of these falls being heavy. This sort of weather is rare in a Margaret River summer requiring harvest plans to be constantly reviewed and updated.

Given the conditions I am thrilled with the result, all whites and rosés were pristine and clean, perhaps a little lighter in body than many years but wonderfully fresh and pure in character.

When we got to reds in March and throughout April the challenges were greater. The requirement for full ripe fruit flavours and depth of body in red wine means the grapes need to be left on the vine longer therefore with increased risk. But we were protected by the wine gods and got all the Hay Shed Hill reds off the vine before the season broke with a vengeance with heavy mid-April rainfall. It was a close thing.

Cabernet and related varieties are bright in colour with good richness and maturity of tannin. I think it will be a classic year more closely aligned with Margaret River wines of the early and mid-90s as opposed to the bigger wines of the early part of the century. And I think that is a good thing. Michael Kerrigan, winemaker.

WINEMAKING: Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from the Hay Shed Hill vineyard were harvested at optimum ripeness. The grapes were de-stemmed into open topped vessels for fermentation on skins with traditional pump over cap management. At the completion of fermentation the wine was left on skins for a further 10 days to maximize the development of the mature tannin. Maturation in French oak barrels for 13 months added further complexity and structure without dominating the fruit.

COLOUR: Dense dark red to black colour of great intensity.

NOSE: An intense and rich bouquet led by the ripest cassis and berry fruits, rich and opulent but brooding in its youth. Behind the primary fruits are distinctive vineyard characteristics of dark chocolate and mint. The oak is background cedar which will recede further as the fruits emerge with some bottle age.

PALATE: This vineyard consistently produces intense fleshy and full mid palate Cabernet with massive fruit weight with dark cherry and blackcurrant flavours. At the time of writing the wine is very youthful and tight but it still has ample fruit sweetness that will only become more accessible as the wine matures in bottle. This is a big full wine with ample flavour and concentration in the classic Margaret River tradition.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Vintage: 2021

Variety: Cabernet Sauvignon 100%

Alcohol: 14.0% Alc. Vol.

Growing Region: Margaret River



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