

'MORRISON'S GIFT' 2021

HAY SHED HILL
MARGARET RIVER



The Hay Shed Hill vineyard is one of the pioneer vineyards of Margaret River, located in the Willyabrup sub-region; heart of Margaret River red wine country. Like many of the neighbouring vineyards Hay Shed Hill was founded by people outside the regions agricultural community, people driven by a common passion for the great wines of Bordeaux.

Since the ground breaking work of Professor Harold Olmo of the University of California Davis and the local legend Dr John Gladstones in the 60s that identified and quantified the climatic and soil attributes of this part of Margaret River, noting the uncanny homoclimatic similarity to that of Bordeaux, the early founders were driven to produce world class Cabernet based blends.

The Hay Shed Hill 'Morrison's Gift' is named after the founders of Hay Shed Hill Wines; Liz and Barry Morrison who planted the grape varieties made famous in Bordeaux. This wine is made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Malbec and Cabernet Franc in honour of their foresight. We thank them for the gift of these fully mature plantings on this wonderful vineyard site that allow us to make wines like the Hay Shed Hill Morrison's Gift'.

THE VINTAGE 2021

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.

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

THE WINE

In keeping with the tradition of great Bordeaux blends this wine is medium bodied with the emphasis placed on textural complexity and elegance rather than brute strength and depth of fruit. Classic Cabernet berry aromas with the all the flavour and textural complexity of the lesser well known, but crucial secondary varieties.

TECHNICAL

Growing Region: Margaret River

Alc Vol: 14.0%

Varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon 46%, Malbec 23%, Cabernet Franc 18%, Merlot 7%, Petit Verdot 18%.



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