



HAY SHED HILL

MARGARET RIVER

HAY SHED HILL BLOCK 8 CABERNET FRANC 2022

Cabernet Franc is an integral component of many of the world's great red wines but not a variety often seen on its own. Cabernet Franc is an indivisible part of great Cabernet blends with several attributes that neither Cabernet Sauvignon nor Merlot can provide - great aromatic intensity of berry fruits, greater early intensity and, in special cases, tannin complexity. Hay Shed Hill has been renowned for its straight varietal Cab Franc for more than a decade. The climate, soil, aspect and individual eccentricities of the vineyard has consistently produced Cabernet Franc of a quality not equalled in my 25+ years of making wine in Western Australia - winemaker Michael Kerrigan.



VINTAGE: An extraordinary season is the phrase that best sums up season 2022.

The South-West of Western Australia experienced one of the hottest springs on record with an intensive long stretch of hot days and unseasonal warm nights, including four consecutive days above 40°C over the Christmas period. The timing of this heat wave was at a critical time in the cycle of the early maturing varieties such as Chardonnay and, to a lesser extent, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon.

Chardonnay, yields were severely affected across the region but most seriously at Hay Shed Hill and other dry grown vineyards. Qualitatively we have no complaints with the wine now in barrel maturing well.

Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon came in at significantly lower yields than expected but much better than Chardonnay. Red grapes were largely unaffected by the heat wave as they were immature in development at that time.

Abruptly in late January the weather changed dramatically with an extreme fall in day and night temperature and with consistent rain events passing through with early Autumnal-like conditions. This cooler weather benefited the red grapes, especially Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec allowing slower development and therefore greater flavour and colour maturity.

The outcome of 2022 is a high quality low yield harvest out of Margaret River.

WINEMAKING: The Cabernet Franc from Block 8 was fermented in open-top vessels with twice-daily pumpovers for extraction of colour and flavour. The resultant wine was matured for 18 months in French oak barriques prior to bottling.

COLOUR: Medium intensity, bright crimson red.

NOSE: Intense lifted berry fruits in the raspberry spectrum with chocolate and mocha hints. Some complex cedary notes from quality French oak are noted.

PALATE: Only medium-bodied compared to its cousins, this wine surprises with its depth of fruit intensity and tannin complexity, showing great mid-palate fruit sweetness and impressive textural palate extension. This is a very fine wine and outstanding example of a classic red wine variety.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Vintage: 2022

Variety: Cabernet Franc 100%

Alcohol: 14.0% Alc. Vol.

Growing Region: Wilyabrup, Margaret River

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