

HAY SHED HILL WORLD SERIES GRENACHE 2022

The Hay Shed Hill World Series wines highlight less well known varieties. Varieties from the old world finding a new expression of character in the new world.

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. We had potentially set a good crop at Hay Shed Hill but this four-day period and the follow up weeks compromised the weight of the bunches so that the end yield was estimated to be less than 30% of expectation. Such is farming. Qualitatively we have no complaints with the wine now in barrel maturing well.

Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon came in at significantly lower yields that 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.

APPEARANCE: Medium density red hues.

NOSE: Savoury elements typical of this variety with some spicy meaty characters in a bouquet of great complexity.

PALATE: A dry earthy palate with savoury flavours and a dry richly textured finish. Medium weight this wine typifies the southern European styles of wine with the emphasis on the textural components rather than overt fruitiness. The fruit expression is more reminiscent of spices and herbs rather than the berry and plum components of most traditional Australian red wines.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Vintage: 2022 | Growing Region: Margaret River

Variety: Grenache 100% | Alcohol: 14.0% Alc Vol.

