



Flametree
MARGARET RIVER

CABERNET MERLOT 2017

The Flametree Range is the heart and soul of the portfolio. It's all about making excellent wines with varietal distinctiveness and a sense of place.

By continuing our pursuit of excellence in every vintage, we are setting benchmarks in terms of quality, value, innovation and branding.



2017 Vintage

2017 was a cooler and later vintage than the previous 10 years; a year of elegant, perhaps even medium bodied wines, though ripe in flavour, vibrant and very perfumed. Higher than average yields in combination with a cooler season contributed to delayed ripening of the fruit and good acid retention. Canopy management and fruit thinning were imperative to allow for even, persistent ripening. April was the driest on record, the extra hang time has resulted in lovely medium bodied wines with good perfume, colour and structure.

Vineyards

The majority of fruit for the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot comes from the Wilyabrup and Yallingup sub-regions, home to many of Margaret River's most famous Cabernet blends. This fruit brings power and richness to the finished wine. A parcel from the more southern Wallcliffe sub-region complements the fruit driven Wilyabrup and Yallingup components, adding a tighter structure and lifted perfume.

Winemaking

Hand-picked and select harvested fruit parcels were tipped directly into open or static fermenters for a few days soaking on skins. Once the wild ferment kicked in, we started plunging and pump-overs for subtle tannin extraction. We worked the skins early and then backed off later in the fermentation process. The individual batches were pressed and then transferred into new and used French oak barrels for maturation. After 12 months in 35% new French oak the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot was blended and bottled, no fining was necessary.

Tasting Notes

The 2017 Cabernet Merlot is very aromatic, showing mulberry, plum and cassis together with dark chocolate notes. The palate shows ripe, fleshy varietal Cabernet fruit characters finishing with fine, soft tannins. Cabernet provides fragrance and structure; Merlot adds mid-palate weight and lovely earthy notes; Malbec provides further dark fruit flesh. This year's Cabernet Merlot will provide good early drinking and also age well in the short to medium term.

Technical Specifications

Blend	79% Cabernet Sauvignon 11% Merlot 10% Malbec
Alcohol	14.4
Acidity	5.72g/L