



Flametree
MARGARET RIVER

FLAMETREE WINES MARGARET RIVER CABERNET MERLOT 2012



Grape Variety / Region

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot
100% Margaret River

Winemaking

Because the fruit was picked so clean we were able to tip the individual parcels directly into open fermenters without putting the fruit through a traditional crusher destemmer. After a few days soaking on skins the wild ferment kicked in and we started plunging and doing juice pump overs for subtle tannin extraction. All open pots were wild fermented as to obtain greater complexity and texture in the final blend.

Ferment temperatures were maintained around 28 degrees [this is more like the ferment temperatures I'd use for a more traditional Margaret River vintage]. After skin contact and inoculation for MLF the batches were pressed and transferred into new and used French oak barrels for maturation. Extended barrel maturation softens the wines and provides added complexity and structure. After 12 months in 35% new French oak the 2012 Cabernet Merlot was blended and lightly egg white fined before going to bottle.

Tasting notes

the 2012 Cabernet Merlot has a tremendous depth of colour with a vibrant ruby red rim that perfectly captures the wonderful qualities of the 2012 vintage. A typical Cabernet nose of cassis, violets and blackberry are balanced with notes of freshly dusted cocoa and dark chocolate, classic Wilyabrup fruit descriptors. There is also a subtle earthy spiciness provided by the addition of 33% Merlot.

The palate is beautifully concentrated, packed with dark fruits, bitter chocolate and subtle spicy French oak characters. The 2012 Cabernet Merlot has a juicy, almost sweet mouth feel, with fine tannins and a long savoury finish.

This is a classic Margaret River Cabernet Merlot from a wonderful vintage that is sure to provide great drinking pleasure on release or improve with patient cellaring for up to 10 years. Aged in tight grained quality French oak barrels for fourteen months, the oak has pulled the fruit into line and provided the framework for this traditional Margaret River Cabernet Merlot.

Alc: 14.2% v/v