



Flametree
MARGARET RIVER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2015

2015 Vintage

2015 was a warm to moderate season with intermittent wild winds and rain. This led to some uneven ripening and the need for vigilant green thinning late in the season. Because we thinned hard and as a result were able to pick earlier than most producers we avoided delaying harvest and increasing hang time, this in turn enabled us to make wines with good concentration of fruit and ample ripe tannins. The 2015 vintage has produced medium bodied wines with good perfume, colour and structure.

Vineyards

The majority of fruit for the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot comes from the Wilyabrup sub-region, home to many of Margaret Rivers most famous Cabernet blends. The core of the wine is sourced from Craig Cottrell's Wilyabrup Estate vineyard on Puzey road, as well as the Ridge Farm vineyard on the same road. We also included two vineyards from Rosabrook located in the Wallcliffe sub-region. These southern vineyards give tighter structure and more perfume than the more fruit driven Wilyabrup components. This was complemented with smaller parcels of juicy Cabernet and Merlot from the Brushwood vineyard on Commonage Road in Yallingup.

Winemaking

Individual fruit parcels were tipped directly into open fermenters or pumped into static fermenters for a few days soaking on skins. Once the wild ferment kicked in, we started plunging and doing pump-overs for subtle tannin extraction. The individual batches were pressed and then transferred into new and used French oak barrels for maturation. After 12-14 months in 30% new French oak the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot was blended, fined and bottled.

Tasting Notes

The nose is typically aromatic, showing mulberry, plum and redcurrant fruits with chocolate and cocoa powder notes. The palate shows ripe, fleshy varietal Cabernet fruit characters finishing with fine, chocolatey tannins. Cabernet provides fragrance and structure; Merlot adds mid-palate weight and some lovely earthy notes; Malbec provides further dark fruit flesh on the palate as well as ripe, sweet tannins; whilst Petit Verdot adds violet and a balanced, dry finish. This medium bodied Cabernet blend will provide good early drinking and also age well in the short to medium term.

Technical Specifications

Blend	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 9% Malbec & 6% Petit Verdot
Alcohol	14.1%
Acidity	6.11 g/L
pH	3.52

