



*Flametree*  
MARGARET RIVER

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2014

### 2016 Vintage

The 2014 season was long and warm with several heat spikes experienced during the growing season. Fruit set was very good, providing for even ripening of crops, and the extended hang time possible resulted in impressive flavour concentration and ample ripe tannins. Yields were moderate to high across the region. The 2014 vintage has produced opulent flavoured wines with all the perfume, colour and structure you'd expect to see in great Margaret River Cabernet blends.

### Vineyards

The majority of fruit from the Wilyabrup sub-region, home to many of the best Cabernet blends in Margaret River. Most comes from the Wilyabrup Estate vineyard on Pusey road, as well as the Knotting Hill and Celestial Bay vineyards on Metricup road. This was complemented with a smaller parcel of fruit from the Brushwood vineyard on Commonage Road in Yallingup. The clones are Houghton clone and clone 126.

### Winemaking

The fruit was tipped individual parcels directly into open fermenters and a portion of the fruit was also placed in static fermenters and left on skins for extended maceration. 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. The batches were pressed and transferred into new and used French oak barrels for maturation. After 12-14 months in 33% new French oak the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot was blended, fined and bottled.

### Tasting Notes

The nose is typically aromatic; showing blackberry, cassis and red currants, with rich chocolate and cocoa notes. The palate shows ripe, fleshy varietal characters finishing with fine, chocolatey, slippery tannins. The varieties meld together seamlessly. Cabernet provides fragrance and structure; Merlot adds mid-palate weight and some lovely earthy notes; Malbec provides further flesh on the palate as well as ripe, sweet tannins; whilst Petit Verdot adds dark fruits and a balanced, dry finish.

### Technical Specifications

<b>Blend</b>	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 13.5% Malbec & 1.5% Petit Verdot
<b>Alcohol</b>	13.8%
<b>Acidity</b>	5.95 g/L
<b>pH</b>	3.61

