



ASHBROOK ESTATE
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER

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2021 Cabernet Sauvignon

TASTING NOTES

Ashbrook Estate is one of the oldest established wineries in the Margaret River region located in the heart of Wilyabrup. Truly family owned and operated since 1975, all wines are crafted from hand-picked, only Estate grown fruit. All processing, winemaking, bottling and packaging are done on site using the Estate's own private facilities. 2021 saw Ashbrook Estate complete its 43rd consecutive vintage, one of only five Margaret River wineries to do so!

"This estate is one of the quietest and highest achievers in Australia, maintaining excellent viticulture and fastidious winemaking." James Halliday AM



2021 VINTAGE

The 2020/21 growing season began with mild spring conditions and reasonable rainfall making for a typical budburst and flowering. Cyclonic weather systems in the north of the state gave us a significantly wet November (13 days of rain) however December and January were warm and dry with cool nights. Vintage 43 at Ashbrook commenced on the 9th of February with our Chardonnay grapes. Unseasonal rain events across February (96.6mm) and March (67mm) extended the harvest period for some of the later ripening varieties but thanks to our open trellis and meticulous vineyard management all the white and red grapes had reached the winery in excellent condition by March 31st. Marri tree blossom was adequate to keep the silvereye birds at bay however nets were applied to much of the vineyard. Low to average yields across all varieties have assisted with incredible flavour at lower Baumés (potential alcohols) with a lovely amount of retained natural acidity.

VINEYARD

Our "Old Cab" block *Houghton* clone cuttings were collected from the Agricultural Department 'Source Block' in the Swan Valley and planted (1976) on the gravelly uplands of Wilyabrup's Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge. Originally all dry-grown on a VSP trellis, 90% of this block was converted to a cane-pruned, lyre trellis in 1998 with immediate and brilliant results. Due to its ultimate suitability to the region and increased demand, the "Young Cab" block was also planted (1998) using cuttings from the original vines which were trained up to a cane-pruned, lyre trellis. Coupled with the application of composted mulch, the Vineyard shows remarkable health and balance producing super premium fruit year in year out.

WINEMAKING

Grapes were hand-picked over several mornings to capture the best characteristics of each site. Bunches were immediately destemmed and the berries put across our vibrating sorting table. Four-tonne parcels of pure berries were then cold soaked, inoculated with carefully selected yeast strains and gently plunged every three hours in temperature-controlled, open, stainless steel fermenters. After desired extraction the wine was gently pressed off skins and completed MLF in stainless steel tanks prior to ageing in 100% premium French oak barriques (15% new) for 23 months. After blending, filtration and bottling the wine was further matured in our underground, climate-controlled cellar until release. Ashbrook Estate has made this traditional Bordeaux-style blend since 1984. (VF)

REGION

Wilyabrup, Margaret River

VARIETIES

Cabernet Sauvignon	86.9%
Petit Verdot	5.4%
Cabernet Franc	5.3%
Merlot	2.4%

HARVEST DATES

15th, 16th, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 30th & 31st March 2021

BOTTLING DATE

13th October 2023

CLOSURE

Stelvin+

TECHNICAL DATA

Alc 13.5% v/v

"Bright red and youthful in the glass. Complex aromas of mulberry, dark cherry, blackberry, spice, violets and an earthy, woody brambliness. Firm, bright, medium bodied and structured in flavour. Dark cherry, redcurrant, cedar, firm tannin and snappy acidity are all nicely at play. Long and layered." Aaron Brasher, The Real Review, 03 Feb 2025