



ASHBROOK ESTATE
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER

ASHBROOK ESTATE

2023 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

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 grapes are handpicked and wines crafted from only Estate grown fruit. All processing, winemaking, bottling and packaging are done on site using the Estate's own private facilities. 2023 saw Ashbrook Estate complete its 45th 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



2023 VINTAGE

According to our Wilyabrup weather station, we recorded above average cumulative rainfall (536.4mm) over the winter months of 2022. Below average temperatures from mid-July (through to February) meant the vines had an excellent dormancy, sluggish awakening and mild start to the growing season. Another 178.4mm of rainfall during spring (slightly above the 10-year average) left the vines in good stead for the very dry finish to ripening. Only 2.6mm rainfall was recorded over the summer months however, maximum daytime temperatures were average or below with no extreme heat events thanks to beautifully cool nights. The dry conditions and scarcity of Marri blossom meant netting the vines was essential to protect them from silverye bird damage. We began harvesting Chardonnay on the 16th of February, one day later than the previous vintage, and had our last Petit Verdot grapes safely inside the winery by April 6th, before the rain arrived. The nine-week harvest period was our longest in a while, thanks to bountiful yields, with all varieties except Riesling and Verdelho, above the ten-year average. The aroma and flavour intensity of the 2023 vintage, across the board, is nothing short of exceptional thanks to optimal dry weather conditions and impeccable vineyard health.

VINEYARD

Obtaining cuttings from Bill Pannell's Moss Wood Vineyard in 1976, Ashbrook's love affair with Semillon began. Due to its popularity & ultimate suitability to the Margaret River region a second block was planted in 1988. Originally all spur pruned on a VSP trellis, the majority was converted to cane pruned, lyre trellis in the early-1990s chasing more of the primary fruit flavours the variety has to offer while still incorporating the grassier flavours from the mixture of spur and cane pruned VSP rows. The first Sauvignon Blanc vines or "Old Sauv Blanc" as it is affectionately known were also planted in 1976 with a second block planted in 1990. As with the Semillon, the VSP trellis was converted to a cane pruned, lyre trellis in early-1990s. Opening up the canopy effectively eliminates greener characters and achieves optimal flavour ripeness at a lower Baumé. Coupled with the application of composted mulch over several years, the entire vineyard shows exceptional health and balance.

WINEMAKING

Our Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc grapes were hand-picked in the cool of dawn over an eight-day period to capture the full spectrum of flavours both varieties can achieve. Destemming and careful pressing occurred immediately and the juice was cold settled and racked before inoculation and fermentation in stainless steel. After blending, minimal fining with bentonite was carried out before cold stabilization, filtration and bottling.

TASTING NOTES

Fragrant passionfruit, guava and lemon zest aromas with a refreshing palate of ripe citrus and gooseberry. Impressive length and perfect summertime drinking with or without food. (VF)

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| REGION | Wilyabrup, Margaret River |
| VARIETIES | Semillon (60%), Sauvignon Blanc (40%) |
| HARVEST DATES | 7 th - 15 th March 2023 |
| BOTTLING DATE | 24 th July 2023 |
| CLOSURE | Stelvin+ |
| TECHNICAL DATA | Alc 13.5% v/v |