



Flametree
MARGARET RIVER

CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT 2023

2023 Vintage

The 2023 vintage in Margaret River was extended yet highly rewarding. Optimal, dry conditions and the absence of climatic or disease pressures created a moderate season ideal for steady, even ripening across all varieties. Fruit quality was outstanding, showing remarkable delicacy and elegance, with yields around 6% above the five-year average. A benchmark year for both whites and reds—one of the great vintages of the modern era.

Vineyards

Fruit for the 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot was predominantly grown in the Wilyabrup sub-region of Margaret River, home to many of Margaret River's most famous Cabernet Sauvignon blends. These northern vineyard sites complement each other and bring perfume, power and richness to the finished wine. The blend included 25% of clone Q45 Merlot, this adds a lovely mid-palate richness, a cherry fruit profile and greater structure. These vineyards are all on gravel loam sites that face north for maximum sun exposure and therefore produce fruit with ripe concentrated flavours.

Winemaking

The fruit for the 2023 Cabernet Merlot was harvested selectively and was tipped directly into open and static fermenters for a few days soaking on skins. Individual batches were inoculated and then fermented around 26 degrees with light extraction techniques. After ferment the batches were pressed and then transferred into new and used French Oak barrels for maturation. After 12 months in 30% new French Oak the 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot was blended and bottled, no fining was necessary.

Tasting Notes

The 2023 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot is aromatic yet juicy and concentrated, showing mulberry, plum and cassis together with dark chocolate notes. The palate shows ripe, fleshy, varietal Cabernet fruit characters finishing with beautifully structured and softer tannins. Quality Merlot adds mid-palate weight and lovely earthy notes and dark fleshy fruit. Drinking really well now the 2023 Cabernet Merlot will cellar well in the medium term. A super Margaret River vintage and most likely the best Cabernet Merlot made yet at Flametree Wines.

Technical Specifications

Blend	75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot
Alcohol	14.0%
Acidity	6.0 g/L
pH	3.48

