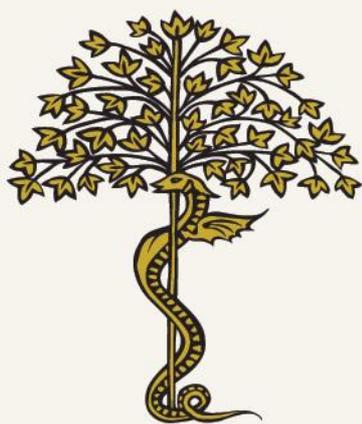


HOWARD PARK



FINE WINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABERCROMBIE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2012

ABOUT ABERCROMBIE

The Abercrombie is Howard Park Wines finest Cabernet Sauvignon. In most years the wine is a blend of grapes sourced from the Abercrombie vineyard in Mount Barker and the Leston vineyard in Margaret River. Our long term commitment to and passion for grape growing in the two major premium grape growing regions of Western Australia is reflected in this wine.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The growing season of 2012

Western Australia

The growing season in the south west of Western Australia was favourable for the production of great wine. After a winter of sufficient rain, the spring to autumn period was warm to hot, dry and characterised by less than average summer rain or humidity.

The Cabernet Sauvignon wines produced from the 2012 vintage are full of ripe fruit flavours, bright acidity and supple tannins.

Margaret River

The vintage was without significant heat spikes or summer rains. Diurnal temperature variations were below average which meant the nights remained warm. The maritime cooling influences and retained soil moisture allowed the vines to maintain good condition until harvest. While the characteristic afternoon southerlies appeared less grating, the lack of humidity and warm conditions keep disease pressure low and vine function high.

Mount Barker and Porongurup

The Mount Barker and Porongurup regions experienced warm to hot conditions throughout the vintage. Hot spells throughout March magnified the effect of little spring or summer rain. With soil moisture very low, the cooler south facing vineyard sites did receive some reprieve off the southern ocean. These warmer than average conditions did accelerate ripeness and allowed red varieties to mature earlier.

VINIFICATION

All grapes selected for Abercrombie are handpicked, destemmed and sorted before fermentation in a mix of small static fermenters and open stainless steel vats. The grapes are hand-plunged and pumped over as required to balance the extraction of colour, tannin and flavour. Each fermenter is basket-pressed to French oak barriques for 18 months of maturation to achieve thorough integration of oak and grape tannins. The wine is minimally fined then filtered prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

A dark ruby red with purple hues and a translucent edge, all of which imply youth, intensity and promise. The bouquet is dense in dark berry fruits with hints of sweet, tincy and spicy French oak. Rich in classic Cabernet notes of sweet blackberry and blackcurrant, savoury dried herbs and softening cocoa and mocha, the palate's opulence is shaped by a supple and fine tannin structure.

This wine has a powerful presence, a sweet core and lasting flavours that with reveal and reward with time.

Date tasted: 28 January 2015, Janice McDonald Winemaker

CELLARING

After a minimum of 6 months settling in bottle, the wine is released. The 2012 is an outstanding vintage of Abercrombie that will take time to reach maturity then cellar well for more than a decade. This wine will drink at its best from 2017.

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VINTAGE INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Variety: | 100% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| Vintage: | 2012 |
| Region: | Margaret River 30% Mount Barker 70% |
| Vineyards: | Margaret River – Leston Block 8 (planted 1997) and Block 29 (planted 2007) Mount Barker – Abercrombie (planted 1975) |
| Harvested: | 28 & 31 March - Margaret River 28 March - Mount Barker |
| Maturation: | 18 months in 70% new |
| pH: | 3.53 |
| Total Acid: | 6.5g/L |
| Alcohol: | 14% |



HOWARD PARK WINES

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Western Australia

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