

HOWARD PARK



FINE WINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

HOWARD PARK CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2002



CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2002

TECHNICAL NOTES

2002 vintage was characterized by generally cool, dry conditions throughout the South-West of Western Australia, ideal conditions for growing quality grapes but not the normal warm to hot conditions that we are accustomed to in this state.

The cool conditions experienced throughout the growing season were responsible for some of the lowest yields on record. Grape crop yields are to a large extent determined by conditions during the grape flowering period, which occurs during November. The effect of reduced yield is of course generally positive on fruit quality and this has proved to be the case in the 2002 harvest.

Margaret River performed well across all varieties. Select parcels of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc from our Margaret River properties produced wines of great intensity and character. The Great Southern has again produced good fruit across all varieties with richly textured Cabernet Sauvignon providing the mainstay of the Howard Park Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot.

The fruit was fermented in open stainless steel vats with twice daily pumpovers with active aeration to promote the textural development of the wine. The resultant wine was matured in 100% new French oak barriques for 23 months prior to bottling. No fining and only minimal course filtration was performed.

TASTING NOTES

The 2002 Howard Park Cabernet Sauvignon is a dense blood red with a dark centre.

The nose displays predominantly the characters of Great Southern Cabernet Sauvignon; dusty earthy tones with dark blackcurrant fruits. There is high class cedary oak evident providing a savoury component to the bouquet.

The palate displays the benefit of the addition of the Margaret River Cabernet with rich sweet fruit displaying chocolaty and ripe berries complementing the leaner more austere Great Southern Cabernet.

The outstanding feature of the wine is the structural complexity achieved only in a few wines with mature ripe tannin and backed up by quality French oak.

CELLARING

The 2002 Howard Park Cabernet Sauvignon has, like all its predecessors, all the structural components to reward long term cellaring. The expectation is that the wine would benefit from 10 years maturation.

VARIETY

91% Cabernet Sauvignon
7% Merlot
2% Cabernet Franc

REGION

68% Great Southern
32% Margaret River



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Margaret River & Great Southern
Western Australia

hpw@hpw.com.au

www.howardparkwines.com