



HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

2022 HOWARD PARK FLINT ROCK SHIRAZ

REGIONAL RANGE

The name *Flint Rock* epitomizes the fine mineral structure and savoury elegance of wines grown in the wildly remote and awesomely beautiful Great Southern of Western Australia. Our regional selection draws upon the varietal heroes of the 3 primary sub-regions; Mount Barker, Porongurup and Frankland River to craft wines with regional typicity and purity. The continental, cool climate of Great Southern is favoured for growing Shiraz. In the Frankland and Mount Barker subregions, where Shiraz reigns, the wines display a great intensity of dark fruits with traces of spice, earth and guiding tannins.

TASTING NOTES

This cool-climate Shiraz embodies the essence of the Great Southern wine region: rich, powerful dark fruit, exotic spice and distinct minerality. Its character unfolds gracefully in the glass, with a concentrated fruit profile that remains impeccably fresh and tart, avoiding any hint of jamminess. The nose presents a captivating and inky medley of black cherry, blueberry, blackberry, clove, crushed peppercorn, wet slate and violets, seamlessly integrated and inviting. The palate is supple and soft, adorned with plentiful briary fruit providing depth and a plush texture, while grippy tannins offer impressive length. A bright, blood-orange-like acidity glides along the palate, complemented by subtle mineral nuances and a delicate oak influence, lending charry, woody notes. This wine is best enjoyed with grilled meats and other BBQ fare, yet for those with patience, carefully cellaring will reveal an even softer, silkier side yet to come.

VINTAGE

In 2022, beautiful dry and sunny conditions were entrenched throughout January and February, removing a great deal of the disease pressure that rain and humidity can bring and allowing a predictable insight into ripening patterns across most varieties.

While summer set the scene for another consistent and memorable vintage, certain varieties paid a penalty for difficult conditions earlier in the growing season. The wet winter of 2021 lingered unduly, smothering the renewal of spring and delaying the onset of budburst and flowering in the vineyards. The consequence was reduced yields in our estate vineyards in the Great Southern.

Consistent fine weather at the tail end of the growing season ensured that the potential developed in the vines was maximised by picking at optimum levels of ripeness. Superb balance between sugar, acidity and flavour across all varieties gives us great optimism for the evolution of wines from the 2022 vintage.

VINEYARDS

This vintage of Flint Rock Shiraz was sourced from Frankland River which typically offers a style that is bold and primary in fruit. Tempered by low rainfall and growing in lateritic gravelly/sandy loams of variable fertility and water holding capacity, the vines are of low to moderate yield.

WINEMAKING

Vinification in small open vat fermenters with gentle cap management to facilitate the extraction of fine fruit tannin and strong varietal flavour. Select parcels were fermented with up to 15% whole bunch to elevate spice aromatics. Maturation was for 15 months in mostly old French oak.



Variety:
Shiraz

Region:
Great Southern

Cellaring:
Cellar for up to 5 years.

Analysis:
Alcohol: 14.5% v/v
pH: 3.38
Acidity: 5.98 g/l
Residual Sugar: 0.55 g/l