



MOSS WOOD

Wilyabrup
MARGARET RIVER
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MOSS WOOD 2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

TASTING NOTES

2013 is the 40th anniversary of Moss Wood's first vintage and another in the dream run of Margaret River's successive, high quality vintages.

Colour and condition are deep, brick-red hue in bright condition. On the nose are classic, bright mulberry and cassis fruit notes, sitting over the almost lazy generosity and complexity of Wilyabrup – cedar, leather and tar.

On the palate this wine is a classic Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon. The fruit flavours are a combination of mulberry, cassis and dark plum, with background notes of dark chocolate and tar. The structure is firm, with bright acidity and long, round tannins, that provide good concentration and texture but allow a finish that isn't gritty or drying, more powdery and pencil shavings.

VINTAGE NOTES

If we could ask for a copybook growing season, 2013 might well be the template. Near average rainfall through 2012 and consistent mild to warm conditions through Spring gave us a flying start.

The Summer was notable for consistent warmth without extreme heat, with only one day of 40°C, on 30th December. There was a consistent pattern repeated week after week right through to harvest, with temperatures rising to the low 30's before slipping back to the mid 20's. It is hard to imagine better conditions, especially for the Cabernet varieties.

The average temperature across the growing season was 19.7°C, and the Cabernet Sauvignon enjoyed 973 hours in its ideal temperature range of 18–28°C, roughly 200 hours more than it needs to successfully ripen the crop. At the same time, the mercury exceeded 33°C for 66 hours, more than enough to reduce the green fruit notes. Yield for Cabernet Sauvignon was virtually average at 7.87 tonnes per hectare while the other two, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, were slightly down. Reduced quantity was not the result of losses to disease or pests. Our fungicide spray program was successful in preventing disease and the birds were kept at bay by the nets.

Finally, with an average ripeness of 12.9° Baume, Cabernet Sauvignon reached full flavour at slightly lower than the average of 13.2°.

PRODUCTION NOTES

After hand picking, the fruit was de-stemmed into small, open fermenters and then seeded with pure yeast cultures for primary fermentation. Extraction of colour and flavour was by hand plunging 3 times per day and skin contact was typically 2 weeks. After pressing the wine was aged in 228 litre French oak barrels for 28 months, 15% of which were new.

In December 2014 all batches were racked and the final blend was made up, consisting of 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc.

The wine was tasted for tannin balance and we concluded that fining was not necessary. It was then sterile filtered and bottled on 12th Oct., 2015.

CELLARING NOTES

As far as cellaring is concerned, 2013 is definitely a keeper. Given that the 1973 and 1974 have made it comfortably past the 40 year mark and that we have improved our techniques over the intervening years, we recommend this wine for the same sort of aging with absolute confidence. That said, there is no doubting the wines generous fruit flavours make it an enjoyable early drink and it can be consumed now, or, if just a little bit of bottle complexity is your thing, 10 years cellaring should be about right.



BLEND

92% Cabernet Sauvignon
4% Petit Verdot
4% Cabernet Franc

ALCOHOL

14%

OAK MATURATION

28 months

HARVEST DATES

Cabernet Sauvignon: 19/3/2013
Petit Verdot: 22/3/2013
Cabernet Franc: 7/3/2013

BOTTLING DATE

12/10/2015

RELEASE DATE

30/5/2016

VINTAGE RATING

10/10

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