

MARGARET RIVER
SANDALFORD
Estate Reserve

2024 Estate Reserve Chardonnay

Tasting Notes

Varietal Breakdown

Chardonnay

Region

Wilyabrup, Margaret River

Vintage

The spring season preceding the 2024 vintage was drier than usual with rainfall down 23% below average and the warmest spring temperatures on record for Western Australia. The weather pattern remained hot and dry leading into summer with temperatures well above average. Flowering, version, and ripening all occurred very early which led to vintage commencing a month earlier than normal. Sandalford began picking their white fruit in the first week of January – the earliest start on record.

Winemakers Comments

Crafted from old vine Gingin clone Chardonnay grown on the Estate vineyard in Wilyabrup, this wine displays all the hallmarks of great Margaret River Chardonnay – rich, bright, intense fruit flavours supported by a lovely natural acid balance. Handpicked fruit was transported to the winery for whole bunch pressing to tank, then immediately transferred to French oak barriques (35% new) for ferment. Using a combination of native yeasts and a selected Burgundian isolate has yielded a wine of complexity that speaks of place. The wine remained in barrel on ferment lees for 9 months prior to assemblage, stabilisation, filtration and bottling.

Tasting Notes

Colour: Straw gold.

Nose: Pink grapefruit, cut lime, and nectarine fruit characters with nougat and roasted cashew nut flavours abound. Subtle toasted vanillin oak and the smoky wood spice characteristics derived from the barrel fermentation support the bright fruit flavours.

Palate: The citrus fruits and toasty oak flavours are beautifully integrated adding layers of complexity to the wine. The mid pallet texture is creamy and is supported with bright acidity leading to a wonderful length of flavour on the finish. Cellaring for up to 10 years will provide greater complexity and richness for those who like a bottle aged style.

Wine Analysis

Alcohol 12.7%

pH 3.18

TA 6.60 g/L

