



MARGARET RIVER

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## ••• ESTATE CABERNET MERLOT 2003

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BLEND—78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot

### TASTING NOTES

Deep red colour with slight brick hues. The aroma, immediately closed with hints of cherry and dark berries and oak, evolves in the glass over time to reveal a vibrant minty perfume, aromas of violets, sage, lavender and cocoa. The palate also takes some time for the fruit to emerge from its tight bindings of fine tannin. Excellent length through the palate and finishing with clean pure fruit flavours. Classical Margaret River Cabernet characters.

### WINEMAKING NOTES

This wine is primarily sourced from Clairault's first plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon (1976) and Merlot (1982). The 2003 vintage finished with a period of cool weather that allowed the Cabernet to achieve full tannin ripeness while still maintaining some of its inherent herbal lift. Fermentation occurs in 5 tonne open fermenters and remains on skins for 10 to 15 days. Maturation for this wine was two years in new (20%) and old (80%) French oak barriques. The wine was made to be tight and restrained and to enjoy a long life, ten years plus.

### WINEMAKING DATA

Sugar Level at Picking: 13.5 to 14.1 Baume  
Wine Titratable Acidity: 7.1g/l  
Alcohol: 14.0%

Wine pH: 3.49  
Wine Residual Sugar: Dry  
WINEMAKER—Will Shields

### ACCOLADES

SILVER      Royal Hobart International Wine Show 2005  
Bronze      The Royal Melbourne Wine Show 2006  
Bronze      QANTAS Wine Show of WA 2006  
Bronze      The Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2006  
Bronze      The Royal Melbourne Wine Show 2007  
Bronze      QANTAS Wine Show of WA 2007  
Bronze      Decanter World Wine Awards 2008  
Bronze      IDA Perth Royal Wine Show 2008

Bronze      International Wine Challenge 2008

"Minty, spicy menthol on the nose with sweet fruit and oak influence. The fresh bright palate has dense fruit supported by spicy oak."

★★★★☆      James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion 2008 (90/100)  
"More concentrated and focused than the '04 regional version, although sharing some of its austerity; black currant and black olive fruits sustain a longer, more accessible palate."

★★★★☆      Winestate Magazine "Best of the West" April/May 2008  
"Dense, inky aromas with nice porty characters, and a dry leathery, spicy palate that's enveloped in Christmas cake-like fruit."

9/10      The Daily Examiner—Max Crus—March 2008

