

EST. 1975



ASHBROOK ESTATE  
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER

## ASHBROOK ESTATE

### 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon

#### TASTING NOTES

Ashbrook Estate is one of the oldest established wineries in the Margaret River region located in the heart of Wilyabrup. Truly family owned and operated since 1975, all grapes are handpicked and wines crafted from only Estate grown fruit. All processing, winemaking, bottling and packaging are done on site using Ashbrook's private facilities. 2022 saw Ashbrook Estate complete its 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive vintage, one of only five Margaret River wineries to do so!

*"This estate is one of the quietest and highest achievers in Australia, maintaining excellent viticulture and fastidious winemaking."* James Halliday AM



#### 2022 VINTAGE

2021 saw the wettest first seven months of the year since we began recording rainfall in 1978 and our average minimum daily temperatures for June, July and August were well under 10°C. As a result, the vines approached growing season well hydrated and well rested. Spring was cool with notable rain events in October. The lead up to vintage was dry and warm with eight minimums over 20°C and several strong wind events. We saw a small amount of leaf burn and sun damage on the outside rows of some blocks; however, most of the vines remained in fantastic condition. Nectar-rich Marri blossom helped enormously in keeping bird damage at bay and minimised the need to net the vines, saving us valuable time and energy. The consistent heat resulted in continual ripening across all varieties and a condensed harvest period. Our first Chardonnay grapes were harvested on February 15<sup>th</sup> and our last pick of Cabernet was safely in the winery by March 25<sup>th</sup>. After the initial nerves surrounding labour shortages, we managed to curate a loyal vintage team who completed six weeks of non-stop, hand-picking, berry-sorting and processing. The fruit was of impeccable quality and although yields were below average, the depth of flavour rivals that of the 2018 vintage.

#### VINEYARD

Our "Old Cab" block *Houghton* clone cuttings were collected from the Agricultural Department Source Block in the Swan Valley and planted (1976) on the gravelly uplands of Wilyabrup's Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge. In 1981, a small plot of Cabernet Franc vines (Swan Valley cuttings) was also planted. Originally all dry-grown on a VSP trellis, 90% of the Old Cab block and all the Cabernet Franc were converted to a cane-pruned, lyre trellis in 1998 with immediate and brilliant results. Due to its ultimate suitability to the region and increased demand, the "Young Cab" block was planted (1998) using cuttings from the original vines which were also trained up to a cane-pruned, lyre trellis. Small plots of Petit Verdot and Merlot were planted in the middle of this block. Coupled with the application of composted mulch, the vineyard shows remarkable health and balance producing super premium fruit year in year out.

#### WINEMAKING

Grapes were hand-picked over several mornings to capture the best characteristics of each site and variety. Bunches were immediately destemmed and the berries put across our vibrating sorting table. Four-tonne parcels of pure berries were then cold soaked, inoculated with carefully selected yeast strains and plunged every few hours in temperature-controlled, open, stainless-steel fermenters. After desired extraction the wine was gently pressed off skins and completed MLF in stainless steel tanks prior to ageing in 100% premium French oak barriques (17% new) for 22 months. After blending, filtration and bottling the wine further matured in our underground, climate-controlled cellar until release. Ashbrook Estate has made this traditional Bordeaux-style blend since 1984. (VF)

#### REGION

Wilyabrup, Margaret River

#### VARIETIES

Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Petit Verdot 7%, Cabernet Franc 5% & Merlot 3%

#### HARVEST DATES

16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### BOTTLING DATE

26<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### CLOSURE

Stelvin+

#### TECHNICAL DATA

Alc 13.5% v/v

*"Bright rich ruby with hints of purple at the rim. Mulberry, bouquet garni and floral aromas. Medium to full bodied with a bright mixed berry core showing graphite and floral lift. Youthful, with tannins providing ample tension and a long, drying finish."* Stuart Knox, *The Real Review*, 08 Jan 2026

*"This is a highly structured and purposeful cabernet that comes from vines planted more than 40 years ago. While it's largely cabernet, smaller components of petit verdot, cabernet franc and merlot have added to the aromatics and to the palate completeness. Fruit is bright and highly energised with blackcurrant and leafy notes merging with a little black olive edginess. It's seamlessly integrated and precisely focused."* Ray Jordan, *WA Wine Review* 2026