

HOWARD PARK



FINE WINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Howard Park single vineyard regional concept is designed to highlight the distinctive regional and site characteristics of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz from our best vineyard sites in the two premier West Australian grape growing regions of Margaret River and the Great Southern.

"The 2008 vintage of the Single Vineyard Regional Series is, in my opinion, the finest release of these wines. A combination of the year, the best practices and a fresh approach from the winemaking and viticultural team has produced distinguished wines with a sense of place. I hope you agree."

Tony Davis, Chief Winemaker

HOWARD PARK 'SCOTSDALE' SHIRAZ 2008



SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES 2008 'SCOTSDALE' SHIRAZ

TECHNICAL NOTES

The 2008 growing season started with the dry winter of 2007 leaving many dams at below adequate levels for comfort for the forthcoming growing season. Fortunately, the spring was wet and cool which preserved soil moisture. However, the flipside was that berry set was compromised and the smaller bunch weights were reflected in lower yields. Shiraz was less severely affected but still had below average yields.

The later spring and early summer was even and warm without the heat spikes experienced in the eastern states. Shoot growth was even and there was excellent ripening potential in the canopies for the moderate yields.

We experienced mixed flowering conditions leading to the lower crop levels in the reds. Benign and mild weather for most of the ripening season was punctuated by well-timed rain events which aided ripening by maintaining leaf freshness and avoiding stress. The 2008 season will be regarded as a classic Western Australian vintage: every variety ripened to perfection without racing, colours were opaque and deep and tannins ripe and supple. The reds will be long lived examples of their styles.

Fermentation occurred mostly in 4 tonne

open top static stainless steel fermenters, and gently hand-plunged which is integral in tannin development. After fermentation and some extra post ferment maceration, the Shiraz was basket-pressed off skins into French oak barriques of which about 40% were new, the balance being 1 and 2 year old. A small component of Shiraz was also pressed early to finish ferment in barrel which adds texture, complexity and aids oak integration. The wine was matured in the barrel for approximately 18 months and after minimal fining and filtration, was bottled in October 2009.

TASTING NOTES

The 2008 Scotsdale Shiraz is a dense bright purple wine with brilliant clarity. The nose has lifted sweet plum, raspberry, licorice and clove aromas of remarkable intensity. With further breathing there are complex anise, mocha and subtle pepper notes emerging.

The 2008 has great concentration without sacrificing finesse. Sweet red licorice and spice characters are wrapped in a plush, silken texture of great persistence. The tannins are incredibly fine and well balanced giving the palate a great seamless quality. This is a long wine with raspberry licorice and cardamon notes persisting for an eternity. A great (or greatest?) Scotsdale Shiraz in a distinguished lineage, the 2008 is at its finest.

VARIETY

2008 Shiraz

REGION

100% Great Southern

CELLARING

Medium term

10 years recommended



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Margaret River & Great Southern
Western Australia

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