



Woodlands

2017

'CLÉMENTINE'

Red Wine | Margaret River - Australia



NATURAL



ORGANIC



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 56% Cabernet Sauvignon - 16% Malbec - 13% Merlot - 9% Petit Verdot - 6% Cabernet Franc

Vineyard: Woodlands Brook Vineyard

Vine Age: 8-years-old (Cabernet Sauvignon) - 13-16-years-old (remaining varieties)

Soil Type: Gravelly, clay loam atop a bed of white clay

Viticulture: Practicing Organic - converting to certified - dry-farmed

Fermentation: Native - upright conical oak fermenters and stainless-steel tanks

Skin Contact: 10-28 days

Aging: 16 months in French barrique (35% new)

Alcohol: 13.5%

Total Production: 2,100 cases

UPC: 9336111000747

Reviews

Halliday Wine Companion | 95 points

James Suckling | 96 points

About

'Clémentine' is to 'Woodlands Brook Vineyard' what 'Margaret' is to the 'Woodlands Estate Vineyard' - a premium Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend. 2015 was the first vintage, named after Andrew and Marie's daughter, who was born that same year. The Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot were already planted when the Watson's purchased the vineyard in 2008. Close-planted, spur-pruned, and in need of a little TLC, the wines produced initially were tannic. Over the years the vines have been converted to cane pruning, which softens the tannins and creates a more balanced canopy and fruit set. A block of Cabernet Sauvignon was in a gravelly meadow of the vineyard in 2009, and these vines were brought up cane pruned and unirrigated. It took them longer to produce, but the fruit that arrived was fantastic - powerful, dark and perfumed - and is the soul of this brilliant blend. 2017 was a year that had very unusual weather patterns throughout the region. Winter was very wet, Spring was bitterly cold, and Summer was mild. La Niña conditions resulted in a longer flowering and growing period across Margaret River, roughly 2-3 weeks later than normal (this is actually more in line with the historical phenology of the region). Heavy rains came through in late February for a few weeks, delaying the harvest further - Cabernet Sauvignon was not harvested until the end of April!. Given the cooler vintage and summer rains it was surprising to see some of the darkest berries that have ever come off of the estate and really alluring aromatics.

This grapes were hand-harvested and sorted by a state-of-the-art gravity fed system.

Tasting Note

Dense crimson. The nose reveals the classic Wilyabrup Valley combination of violet and brambly red fruits, with a touch of vanilla. The palate follows with a sense of purpose-marching to the beat of red berry and dark berry fruits, with dark cocoa following along in the background. The finish is polished and sleek, with excellent integration of gravelly tannin and fine acidity.