

# 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 'LESTON' SHIRAZ 2008



### SINGLE VINEYARD SERIES 2008 'LESTON' 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 wine is an opaque purple red of great density. The nose is rich and concentrated; the 2008 Leston Shiraz is a revelation. The Satsuma and blueberry varietal characters are complemented with the regional soy and seaweed and the site's violet characters produce a true wine of place.

The 2008 Leston Shiraz is the finest release of this label so far, in my opinion. Layered primary fruit and site characters have unmatched intensity with layers of fleshy sweet red and blueberry fruit, spice, floral and coffee notes. The opulent texture of the midpalate is balanced by perfectly ripened tannins that extend through the finish adding complexity, balance and finesse. A great style for ageing.

#### VARIETY

2008 Shiraz

#### REGION

100% Margaret River

#### CELLARING

Medium term

8–10 years recommended



#### HOWARD PARK WINES

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Western Australia

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