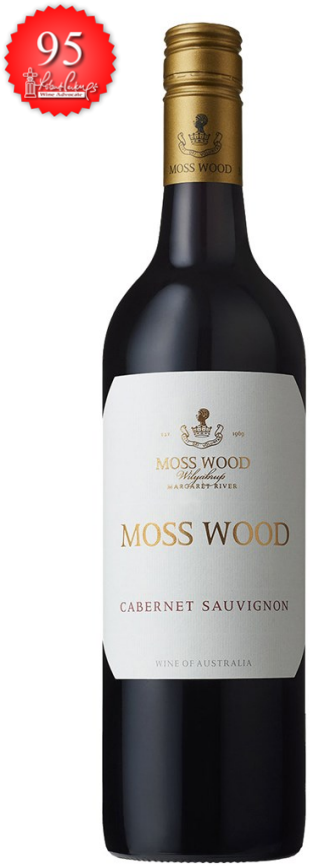
Moss Wood

A classical and refined expression of Margaret River, this Cabernet is a masterclass in balance and finesse from one of Australia's most revered estates.

MOSS WOOD
Wilyabrup
MARGARET RIVER
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Cabernet Sauvignon 2021

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Moss Wood is situated in the heart of the **Wilyabrup subregion** of **Margaret River**, Western Australia—a coastal terroir celebrated for producing some of the country's most structured and age-worthy Cabernets. The 2021 growing season was relatively cool, reminiscent of vintages like 2017 and 1975. While not without its challenges, including multiple tropical rain events and a cool average temperature of 18.8 °C (compared to the long-term average of 20.1 °C), the vintage allowed for an extended ripening period of 134 days between flowering and harvest.

This prolonged hang time, aided by the region's maritime climate and well-draining gravelly soils, enabled full phenolic ripeness while retaining acidity—producing fruit with exceptional purity and varietal clarity. Yields were slightly below average for Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, but this likely concentrated the resulting wine.

Winemaking

The 2021 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon is an estate-grown blend comprising **Cabernet Sauvignon**, **Cabernet Franc**, and a small portion of **Petit Verdot**. Grapes were hand-picked, sorted, and destemmed before undergoing fermentation in small open fermenters, with skin contact lasting 13 to 16 days. Malolactic fermentation took place in stainless steel, and the wine was matured in **French oak barriques (16% new)**.

After an initial blending in December 2022, the wine continued its élevage before final racking in October 2023. No fining was applied, as trials confirmed the tannin profile was ideally balanced. The wine was sterile filtered and bottled on 30 October 2023.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep brick red, bright and clear in the glass.
- **Aroma**: Intensely aromatic, with lifted notes of **blueberry, raspberry, redcurrant, mulberry**, and **plum**. Floral violet notes—typical of Cabernet Sauvignon—add elegance, while spice tones of **nutmeg, cinnamon, and clove** mingle with underlying hints of **cedar, tobacco, tar**, and **toasty oak**.
- **Palate**: Rich and expressive with blackcurrant, cherry, and dark berry flavors layered over a **medium to full body**. The acidity is bright, enhancing freshness, while the **svelte, chocolatey tannins** are seamlessly integrated. The long finish brings together **cedar**, **toasty oak**, and a whisper of **star anise**.

Did you know?

The 2021 vintage is stylistically compared by Moss Wood to their legendary 1975 Cabernet Sauvignon—a wine celebrated for its cool-year elegance. Co-founder Sandra Pannell once described the 1975 and 1976 vintages in terms of iconic personalities: 1975 as **Audrey Hepburn**—refined, delicate, and poised—while 1976, a warmer year, was likened to **Dolly Parton**—bold, exuberant, and ripe. This analogy lives on as a charming way to understand Moss Wood's stylistic nuances across vintages.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb with herbes de Provence**: Elevates the wine's herbal and spice notes.
- **Beef bourguignon**: Complements the depth of dark fruit and savoury undertones.
- **Hard sheep's milk cheese (e.g. Manchego, Pecorino)**: Highlights the wine's acidity and fine tannin.
- **Roasted duck with blackberry glaze**: Mirrors the wine's fruit-driven core and adds a succulent contrast.

95

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2021)

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon leads with raspberry and red gravel, cassis, cocoa and tobacco, with layers of red apple and licorice, all of it shaped by warm-biscuit oak. The palate has gentle clarity: the length of flavor is very long, but the intensity of this vintage has been turned down. It was an interesting year in the vineyards, with constant rain or drizzle, coupled with moderate temperatures throughout the growing season. It caused some viticultural pressures, which in turn impacted picking decisions; in the end, it was a season defined by extreme vigilance and nimble decision-making. This iteration is an elegant, fine expression, which texturally feels good in the mouth. It's a quietly sapid wine. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.