



Vasse Felix

This Cabernet Sauvignon is aromatic and layered, with notes of forest fruits, savory nuances, and a minerally edge, capturing the unique character of Wilyabrup's terroir.



VASSE FELIX



Cabernet Sauvignon 2020

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Located in the **Wilyabrup** sub-region of Margaret River, the vineyard parcels for this Cabernet Sauvignon are planted on **well-drained gravel loam soils**—an ideal terroir for Cabernet due to its ability to promote both varietal purity and structural finesse. The 2020 growing season was marked by **early spring development** and a warm start to summer, leading to fine, dry conditions that extended through the season. This climate encouraged early ripening, concentrating the flavors and preserving fresh acidity. An ideal Marri blossom timing minimized bird pressure, and late February rains refreshed the vines, allowing for an extended harvest that supported optimal tannin and flavor maturation.

The blend includes **85% Cabernet Sauvignon**, enhanced by **13% Malbec**, **1% Petit Verdot**, and **1% Merlot**. These complementary varieties add complexity—Malbec for depth and richness, Petit Verdot for tannic structure, and Merlot for additional softness—creating a layered and balanced profile that highlights the Wilyabrup terroir.

Winemaking

Winemaking for the 2020 Vasse Felix Cabernet Sauvignon emphasizes the wine's natural complexity and regional expression. The grapes were **fermented with wild yeast** as whole berries, a technique that promotes a refined and aromatic profile. Fermentation occurred in a mix of vessels—**43% in static fermenters**, **38% in rotary fermenters**, and **19% in open-top fermenters**—each contributing unique structural and textural elements. The wine spent **13 to 30 days on skins** to achieve the desired level of tannic refinement and aromatic depth.

After fermentation, the wine matured in **French oak barriques** for **18 months**, with **33% new oak** and the remaining in 1 to 4-year-old barrels. This oak regimen enhances the wine's complexity without overpowering the fruit, preserving its elegant character. Basket and air bag presses were used, allowing gentle extraction for a smooth and balanced tannin profile.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 85% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 13% Malbec, 1% Petit
Verdot, 1% Merlot



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with a purple hue.
- **Aroma:** Bright forest fruits with blackberry depth, enhanced by hints of baked bread crust, tomato-herb focaccia, black truffle, and a mineral complexity reminiscent of granite and ocean spray.
- **Palate:** Juicy and intense, with lush dark fruits balanced by fine, powdery tannins. The palate is vibrant and taut, showing concentrated raspberry, vanilla, and savory nutmeg on the finish.

Did you know?

The **Vasse Felix Cabernet Sauvignon** is the estate's premier Cabernet, representing the archetypal style of **Margaret River Cabernet**. Since its first vintage in **1972**, this wine has set a standard for elegance and ageability in Australian Cabernet, making it a benchmark for the region and a favorite among collectors.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast beef with rosemary and garlic:** The wine's tannic structure and savory notes complement the richness of the roast.
- **Truffle risotto:** The earthy, truffle notes in the wine enhance the umami flavors in the risotto, creating a harmonious pairing.
- **Braised short ribs:** The depth and structure of the Cabernet cut through the richness of the meat, while its acidity balances the dish's savory elements.
- **Aged cheddar:** The firm structure and dark fruit notes of the wine contrast with the creamy, tangy character of the cheese.



Robert Parker (RP) : 94 Points (2020)

The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon is both earthy and mineral on the nose, with gravel and petrichor, graphite and iodine, raspberry, nori, layers of pomegranate molasses and black cherry. The wine reveals its 2020 vintage roots via the compact framework of tannin and lush red/purple core of fruit. Through the finish, it is possessed of two things in harmony: savory, chewy/ductile/agile tannins and a red jubey character.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 93 Points (2020)

Sugar plum scents introduce this salty, oceanic cabernet, a good, healthy wine with waves of currant fruit. The savory dark fruit keeps the wine lifted out of its tannins, which provide grip in the end and continue to yield fruit as they last.



Wine Spectator (WS) : 93 Points (2020)

Offers wild berry flavors that are plush and elegant, mingling with notes of forest floor, sage, dried mushroom and palo santo, plus a touch of peppermint oil. The tannins are supple and creamy, with an elegant yet powerful profile.



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