

CLOUDBURST

- Margaret River -

CLOUDBURST VINEYARD

AREA

The vineyard comprises less than 2 hectares of a 100-hectare block, adjacent to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park bordering the Indian Ocean in a United Nations classed Biodiversity hotspot.

THE LAND

Carved out of pristine wild bushland, the Cloudburst farmlands have never seen a chemical.

THE SOILS

Combination of Wilyabrup profile of ironstone gravelly loams and Forest Grove profile of lateritic granite with lenses of beach sand. Limestone caves in close proximity with calcareous deposits.

VINE ORIENTATION

North – South.

DENSITY OF PLANTING

10,000 vines per hectare.

AGE OF VINES

13-21 years.

All varieties are own-rooted – phylloxera not a threat in region.

GRAPE VARIETIES

50% Chardonnay
40% Cabernet
10% Malbec

VITICULTURE

Vines are entirely hand tended without use of machines.

The vineyard has never been irrigated, it is entirely dry grown. Trellising utilizes vertical shoot positioning with a very low cordon. Biodynamic and Organic principles employed from inception. Vineyard is entirely hand weeded and, is neither cultivated nor tilled.

HARVEST

Grapes are hand harvested into tiny crates to preserve freshness.

VINIFICATION

REDS – Specific tiny cuvees are harvested, destemmed, hand sorted, and delivered without pumping to open fermenters. The grapes are not cold soaked. Spontaneous fermentation occurs from wild yeasts present in the vineyard. Ferments are plunged periodically throughout the process and once dry, are pressed immediately to barrel without extended maceration nor extra skin contact. Secondary malolactic fermentation occurs spontaneously in barrel. Minimal sulfur is added and the ferment rests until bottling.

WHITES – Hand-sorted, specific tiny cuvees are whole bunch pressed directly into barrel. Spontaneous primary and secondary fermentations occur in barrel. The barrels undergo marginal amount of batonage. Wines are minimally sulfured once they finish fermentation and rest gently until bottling.

ELEVAGE

Cloudburst matures in French oak, largely new. Chardonnay classically rests 10-11 months in barrel. Cabernet and Malbec typically spend 18 -21 months in barrel.



Will Bertiner Vigneron

Photo Sarah Hewer

2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

VINTAGE 2023



CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

A very wet winter was followed by a cool, wet and windy spring, delaying fruit set and veraison, which ultimately resulted in a later than customary harvest. Summer was exceptionally warm and dry with very even heat. However early extreme heat spikes significantly shrivelled and reduced the red crop, and effectively eliminated the 2022 Cloudburst Malbec. These dry conditions produced low bunch weights and fewer, yet profoundly concentrated and tangy Cabernet grapes. This resulted in significantly diminished quantities of magnificently flavourful Cloudburst Cabernet.

VINIFICATION

HARVEST DATES – April 3 and 9
pH – 3.81
ALCOHOL – 13.5%
YIELD – 1978 bottles

2023 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Seamlessly creamy from first taste through lingering finish, a lusciously dense, perfectly weighted confection. Like eating a mouthful of blueberry jam straight from the jar — in this case, full of bright, perfumed, energetic mulberry, myrtle berry, and mediterranean bush flower wildness, wrapped in deep blue sour seaweed umami. A taste of pique, vigour and stunning grace.



Photo: Sarah Hewer