



Cartwheel

## *2003 Cartwheel Cabernet Merlot – Western Australia*

Follow Australia's final sunset to the home of Cartwheel wines in Western Australia.

### **TASTING NOTE**

The spicy Cabernet and smooth, luscious Merlot perfectly combine to produce a wine that is a true expression of regional and varietal characters. Bright berry red in colour, this wine displays cherry, violet and cinnamon aromas on the nose. These characters are supported on the palate by red currant and dried herb flavours.

### **VITICULTURE**

The Great Southern region is located approximately 400km south of Perth. This region is bordered by the Great Southern ocean and is, geographically speaking, the largest wine producing region in Australia. The Great Southern region ranges from sea level to an elevation of 400m. The gradient is generally uniform and the region as a whole is gently undulating. The maritime climate is typified by cool dry summers and cool wet winters. The soil is such that small amounts of supplementary irrigation can be required during dry seasons. The region is renowned for producing premium quality Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The 2003 vintage was warm and dry, producing richly ripe fruit flavours.

### **WINEMAKING**

Winemaking practices were used to enhance the unique varietal and regional fruit characters. The fruit was harvested and crushed into traditional style fermenters where, over several days, the interaction between the skins and the juice resulted in the extraction of colour, flavour and tannin. After fermentation was complete, the wine was matured for 18 months before blending and bottling.

### **SUGGESTED FOOD**

Enjoy with pasta dishes with tomato based sauces or barbecued meats.

### **CELLARING**

Enjoy over the next two years.

### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

Harvest Date: March 2003, pH: 3.53, Total Acidity: 6.07 g/L, Residual Sugar: .93 g/L, Bottling Date: January 2005.

