



MARGARET RIVER WINE

Margaret River Final 2014 Vintage Report (June 2014)

Margaret River's 2014 vintage represents our 8th successive year of favourable weather conditions across all varietals. Again, and luckily, we have been spared the extreme variations present in many other Australian wine regions this year.

For Margaret River the terms "warm, sunny, mild with ocean breeze" typify what is normal and this is what we have experienced throughout with most in the industry agreeing that it appeared to be a repeat of the excellent growing season leading up to the 2010 vintage.

Even to the end of May, when vintage finished in the more southern areas, Marri blossom was still prevalent throughout; thus bird damage was minute. Accompanying this there has been little disease pressure because of the very strong growing conditions due again to seasonal weather consistency.

Truly exceptional white fruit has been grown this year showing very intense varietal flavours. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, as aromatic varieties, are characterised with crisp acidity on the palate with fresh citron / lime extending to lively stone fruit on the nose.

Chardonnay is displaying outstanding lines of natural acidity balanced with soft and fine phenolics with a flavour profile of citrus - nectarine - summer peach.

Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon yields are about average with Chardonnay up to 10% to 15% less so due to the stormy wind conditions experienced at Spring flowering.

With the red vintage all varietals are showing vibrant fruit ripe intensity, great colour and balanced tannin profiles. Milder weather conditions in late April early May delayed final ripening and harvest was about a week later than average.

The delayed harvest was perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon and has resulted in excellent wines of weight, concentration and texture. Fruit is pure and silky with a ripe red dark berry flavour profile and soft fine tannins. Yields for Cabernet Sauvignon are predicted to be down by 10% to 20% simply due to seasonal variation.

2014 will be again be a very high quality vintage from Margaret River showcasing our hallmark strengths of elegance, finesse and great aging potential. Present thinking suggests Chardonnay is looking truly exceptional with its great natural acidity although there are almost as many who believe it is a 'sleeper' year for Cabernet just it was with the 1995 and 2005 vintages; only time will tell.

ENDS – Dated 26th June 2014

For further information, please contact MRWA President, Nigel Gallop (Fraser Gallop Estate: 0407 088 438) or Nick Power, CEO, Margaret River Wine Association on 0400 516 555.

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