

# Critical Acclaim

Margaret River wines, particularly the Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, have an impressive representation in Australia's highest classifications, as measured by media reviews, wine shows and auctions. This is noteworthy, given Margaret River crushes only 1.5% of the Australian national crush of Cabernet Sauvignon (6,300 of 308,000 tonnes in vintage 2021) and 1.1% of Chardonnay (4,200 of 385,000 tonnes in 2021). The most respected critical measures of wine quality in Australia are James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, Langton's Classification of Fine Wine and Australia's National Wine Show circuit. Producers from the Margaret River Wine Region have a disproportionate representation of accolades within each.

## LANGTON'S CLASSIFICATION

The premier guide to Australian fine wine, The Langton's Classification has been compiled since 1990, as an independent list based on prices, volume of demand, and supply at auction. 15 wines from Margaret River were part of the 137 wines selected for the seventh edition, unveiled in September 2018.

### MARGARET RIVER WINES IN LANGTON'S CLASSIFICATION VII



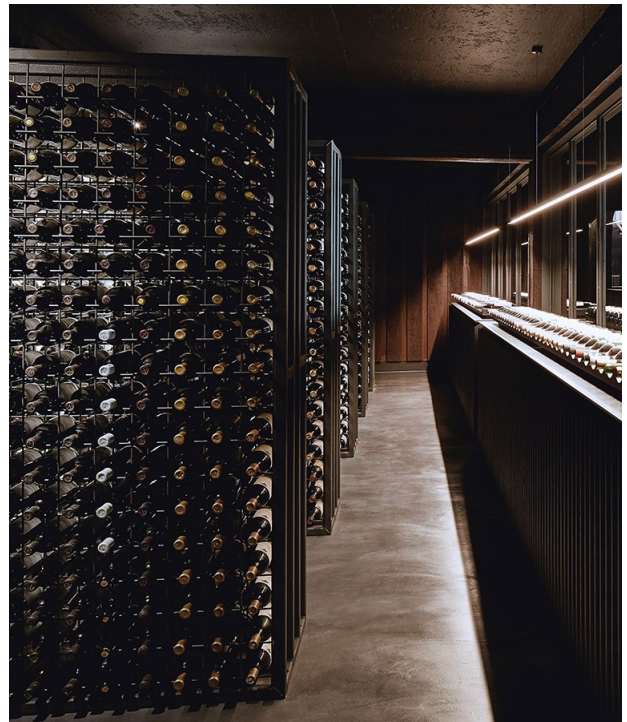
Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay  
Cullen Diana Madeline Cabernet Merlot  
Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon



Pierro Chardonnay  
Howard Park Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon  
Leeuwin Estate Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon  
Vasse Felix Tom Cullity Cabernet Malbec  
Woodlands Family Series Cabernet Sauvignon



Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay  
Vasse Felix Heytesbury Chardonnay  
Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon  
Deep Woods Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon  
Vasse Felix Cabernet Sauvignon  
Voyager Estate Cabernet Merlot  
Xanadu Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon



*“Few regions in Australia have evolved as much as Margaret River. The Cabernet Sauvignon grown there is the country's finest, up there with the best in the world, and the Chardonnay is exceptional.”*

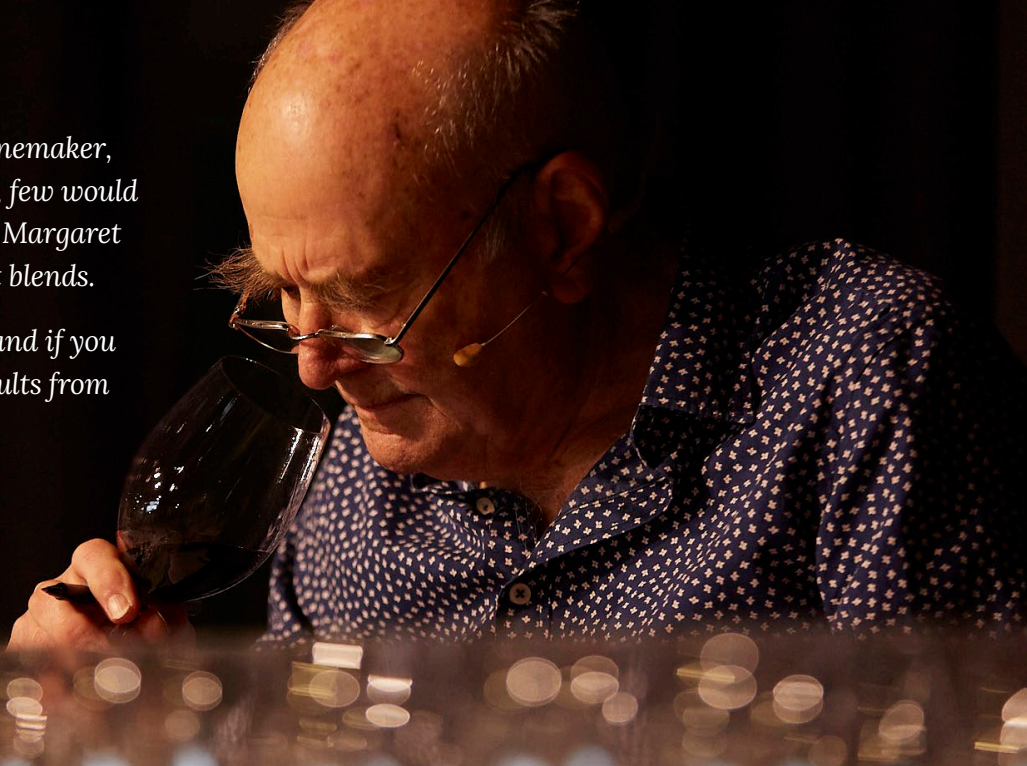
Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW



*“No matter whether you are a winemaker, a retailer, a writer, or otherwise, few would argue the toss on the primacy of Margaret River for Cabernet and Cabernet blends.*

*It towers over all other regions, and if you doubt that, look at any of the results from capital city wine shows.”*

James Halliday AM



James Halliday AM, Margaret River's 50th Tasting

## HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION

Created by esteemed vigneron, author and wine critic, James Halliday AM, the Halliday Wine Companion has long established itself as the ultimate guide for Australian wines and wineries. As the nation's most comprehensive wine resource, the Halliday Wine Companion sets the standard for winemakers, consumers, and collectors alike. Since 1986, Halliday has published an annual overview of Australian wine, continuously singling the Margaret River Wine Region out for superb its high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.

### REGIONAL PERFORMANCE: BEST OF THE BEST BY VARIETY

CHARDONNAY	2020	2021	2022	2023
WINE REGION	NUMBER OF WINES			
Margaret River	21	21	14	19
Yarra Valley	4	9	6	9
Beechworth	2	3	1	2
Denmark	0	1	3	1
Adelaide Hills	5	7	2	1
South Eastern Australia	0	1	1	1
Geelong	2	4	0	1
Tasmania	5	7	2	0
Mornington Peninsula	3	1	2	0
Piccadilly Valley	0	0	1	0
Macedon Ranges	1	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>% OF MARGARET RIVER WINES</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>56%</b>

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON / CABERNET & FAMILY

	2020	2021	2022	2023
WINE REGION	NUMBER OF WINES			
Margaret River	23	23	26	25
Yarra Valley	5	3	9	6
Coonawarra	4	2	7	5
Langhorne Creek	1	1	1	3
Great Southern	7	4	5	2
Orange	0	0	1	2
Clare Valley	1	0	2	1
South Australia	2	2	1	1
Pyrenees	0	0	0	1
Kangaroo Island	0	0	0	1
Tasmania	0	0	0	1
Nagambie Lakes	0	0	0	1
Hunter Valley	1	1	1	0
McLaren Vale	5	5	3	0
Barossa / Eden Valley	3	3	0	0
Western Australia	0	1	0	0
Wrattonbully	2	0	0	0
Hilltops	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>% OF MARGARET RIVER WINES</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>51%</b>



## HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION

### Margaret River Winery Star Ratings



MARGARET RIVER HAS MORE  
**5 STARS**  
WINERIES THAN ANY OTHER  
REGION IN 2023 HALLIDAY  
WINE COMPANION

## 21 RED NAME + 5 RED STARS

“Recognised for having a long track record of excellence – truly the best of the best”

## 12 BLACK NAME + 5 RED STARS

“Consistent record of excellence for at least the last three years”

## 11 BLACK NAME + 5 BLACK STARS

“Have achieved excellence this year (and sometimes longer)”

## HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION 2023 AWARDS

### WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Glenn Goodall, Xanadu Wines, Margaret River

Glenn started at Xanadu in 1999, and took on the role of Chief Winemaker in 2006. Since then, the quality of the wines has gone from strength to consistent strength. His belief that the vineyard is central to the success of the wine has steered his winemaking decisions towards prefacing terroir in all wines, from the DJL to the Reserve range. Due to his leadership, focus and attention to detail, the wines exude excellence at every price point. However, his award-winning wines are not the whole story. It is not enough in life to be good at your job – in Glenn’s case, he has given his time and knowledge generously and freely over many years to the Australian wine show system, he speaks at seminars and contributes to expert panels, and supports his peers local and interstate. His ready smile and open nature are just “the sauce on the pie at Mossy’s” (ask him). All of this should tell you that Glenn is not only an exceptionally talented winemaker, but a widely loved and respected member of this industry – EL.



Glenn Goodall, Halliday Wine Companion 2023 Winemaker of the Year

### DARK HORSE WINERY

L.A.S Vino, Margaret River

Nic Peterkin was born with pedigree winemaking blood in his veins, but his own ingenuity and hard work have got him to where L.A.S. Vino is today. Nic has consistently produced wines that push boundaries and show a penchant for his calculated, out-of-the-box style of thinking. Whether it is alternate fermentation vessels, wildly extended time on skins (one nebbiolo once spent something like 400+ days on skins), experimental processes (fermenting grapes in sea water, or using the yeast of native flora, for example) Nic throws himself at wine with freshness and a vivacity and a curiosity that are catching. To say that the wines are expressive, and individual is true, but it doesn’t quite tell the whole story. These wines have a tendency to extract unexpected descriptors, flavours and experiences from the writer, and the drinker, all the while portraying a classicism and accuracy of site that make them so brilliant – EL.

### BEST VALUE WINERY

Deep Woods Estate, Margaret River

The team, led by previous Winemaker of the Year Julian Langworthy, has shown a thrilling (some may say flagrant) disregard for accepted price-point quality; ie, their entry-level wines present compelling drinking propositions, and their Reserve range (among the cheapest of the best in Margaret River) frequently blitz the competition in the quality: value stakes. Immune to hyperbole, this is an estate to watch (and buy, and drink) – EL.





The six Jimmy Watson Trophy winners from Margaret River

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WINE SHOWS

Trophies for Western Australian wines at Australia's seven National Wine Shows are tracked by no-one else in the world as closely as longstanding local wine commentator, educator and retailer, John Jens. As a former statistician, John proudly shares WA's show results widely.

*“Since 2014, the West has won 41 of the past 51 Best Cabernet Trophies. From memory only one of these Cabernet Trophies was from the Great Southern – the rest being from Margaret River.”*

John Jens

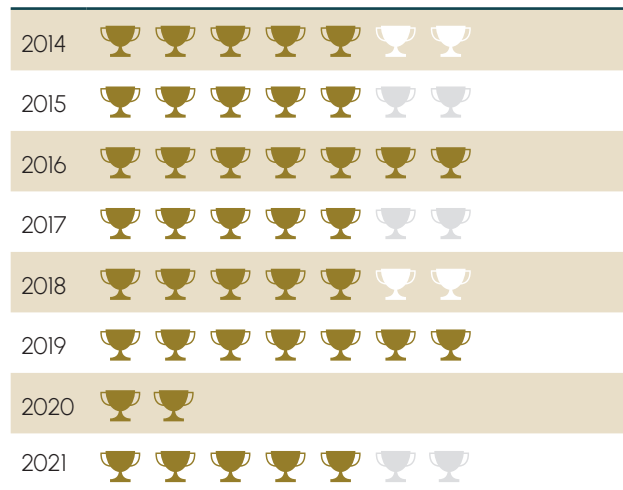
### BEST CHARDONNAY TROPHIES TO MARGARET RIVER WINE



TOTAL 27 TROPHIES @ 51 SHOWS

52% of Chardonnay Trophies at National Wine Show went to Margaret River wines.

### BEST CABERNET TROPHIES TO MARGARET RIVER



TOTAL 41 TROPHIES @ 51 SHOWS

80% of Cabernet Sauvignon Trophies at National Wine Show went to Margaret River wines.

#### Sources

Halliday Wine Companion, [www.winecompanion.com.au](http://www.winecompanion.com.au)  
Langton's Classification VII, [www.langtons.com.au/classification](http://www.langtons.com.au/classification)

