

MARGARET RIVER REPORT

PART 2

Part 2 wraps up our Margaret River report. We're full of admiration for the depth of quality we discovered in both the chardonnays and cabernets. The results reinforce the fact that no region in Australia performs as well with both varieties.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON



2013 Edwards Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A fresh rich cassis style with the classic tobacco leaf overtones. The palate is a delight – long, intense varietal flavour supported by beautifully balanced fine, firm tannins. Cellar. (\$40.00) ★★★★★
<http://www.edwardswines.com.au/collections/the-edwards-collection>

2013 Deep Woods Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Deep Woods has been shaking up the wine show scene, and it's easy to see why. The vibrant cassis/leaf aromas are very impressive, and the richness of the palate is matched by fine, polished tannins. Another one to put away for a while. (\$60.00) ★★★★★
https://www.danmurphys.com.au/product/DM_941180/deep-woods-reserve-cabernet-sauvignon

2013 Grace Farm Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Beautifully ripe blackcurrant aromas and flavours match well with the high quality oak. It's a complete wine - intense, long and dry, with typical cabernet firmness that needs time to soften. (Not yet released) ★★★★★
<http://gracefarm.com.au/>

2013 Sittella Berns Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon This trophy winner from the 2015 Small Vigneron Awards is still very youthful. Cassis and redcurrant characteristics are prominent, together with suggestions of mint and leaf. Classic cabernet in every sense. (\$44.95) ★★★★★
<http://www.wineempire.com.au/product/sitella-berns-reserve-cabernet-sauvignon-2013-red-wine-margaret-river/>

2012 Saracen Estates Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon There's attractive, complex, Médoc-like complexity here – cigar box, dusty road etc. The intense palate is long and dry. (Not yet released) ★★★★★

2009 Umamu Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon A lovely mature cabernet with good sweet fruit backed up by a dry finish. Ready. (\$58.00) ★★★★★

2013 Stella Bella Serie Luminosa Cabernet Sauvignon Although it shows a little development, that adds to the dusty complexity. It's quite Médoc-like in that respect, and offers a long finish with very fine tannins. (\$75.00) ★★★★★

2013 Sittella Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Attractive cassis and tobacco leaf aromas. It's quite rich initially, finishing slightly acidic. (\$23.80) ★★★★★

2013 Woody Nook Gallagher's Choice Cabernet Sauvignon Cassis, mint and leaf nuances - even a slight scent of green Tabasco. The palate is even, fine and firm. (\$41.00) ★★★★★

2013 Vasse Felix Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Lovely nose. Intense cassis/cedar. Good initial flavour tapering off slightly to a firm finish. (\$35.00) ★★★★★

2013 McHenry Hohnen Hazel's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Has varietal character but is comparatively developed in colour, nose and palate. Nevertheless, there's still a reward in the fruit weight and classic firm structure. (\$65.00) ★★★

2013 Suckfizzle Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Ripe red fruits characteristics. Plenty of flavour, but it's more robust than fine. (\$55.00) ★★★

2013 Peccavi Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Quite oaky at this stage. It certainly has varietal flavour, but is a little too firm for the weight of fruit. (Not yet released) ★★★

2015 Sittella Berns Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Fresh but almost too primary in fruit terms at this early point. Quite minty. We're keen to try this wine again in 12 months. (\$48.00) ★★★

2015 Sandalford Estate Reserve Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Very new and undeveloped, but shows blackcurrant and leaf characteristics. A callow wine at this stage. (\$45.00) ★★★

2013 Churchview The Bartondale Cabernet Sauvignon Tending to the jammy end of ripeness. Quite solid. (\$55.00) ★★☆☆

2010 Watershed Awakening Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Mature blackcurrant, green leaf, celery. Austere. (\$69.95) ★★☆☆

2013 Vintners Ridge Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Developed colour. Too mature and oaky. (\$25.00) ★★☆☆

2013 Stormflower Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Farmyard aromas. Palate dries out to a hard finish. (\$45.00) ★☆☆☆

CABERNET BLENDS



2014 Victory Point The Mallee Root An impressive blackcurrant, leaf plum and cedar expression of a classic blend. The flavour is intense, the palate is long and the tannins are fine. (\$28.50) ★★★★★
http://www.victorypointwines.com/shop/order_online.phtml

2013 Woodlands 'Margaret' Margaret River Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Malbec Fresh blackcurrant aromas with a hint of leafiness and a well-judged touch of oak. The palate is opulent, firm and balanced. Both flavour and tannins linger long. (\$43.00) ★★★★★
<https://www.nicks.com.au/2013-woodlands-margaret-reserve-cabernet-merlot-malbec>

2014 Cullen Diana Madeline It's perfumed and seductive in terms of bouquet, but the palate carries fineness a step too far – towards lightness. Nevertheless, it's an attractive wine, elegant if you like. (\$110.00) ★★★★★

2014 Watershed Senses Margaret River Cabernet Merlot Ripe blackcurrant aromas meet a decided leafiness. Nevertheless, there's good depth of flavour matched to sandy tannins. (\$30.00) ★★★★★

2012 Leeuwin Estate Prelude Vineyards Cabernet Merlot Bright red fruits abound aromatically. A generously flavoured wine with savoury tannins. (\$32.00) ★★★★★

2012 Voyager Estate Cabernet Merlot The blackcurrant and plum aromas are enticing, and there's a definite generosity of flavour but the finish is quite firm. (\$60.00) ★★★★★

2014 Juniper Crossing Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Very attractive blackcurrant/cedar. Plenty of flavour but quite firm. (\$17.00) ★★★

2014 McHenry Hohnen Rocky Road Margaret River Cabernet Merlot Very fresh cassis/plum. Solid. Chewy. (\$20.00) ★★★

2014 Woody Nook Margaret River Cabernet Merlot Leafy spicy ripe blackcurrant. Somewhat tough. (\$26.00) ★★★

2014 Higher Plane Margaret River Cabernet Merlot Fresh concentrated cassis with hints of peppermint. Firm. (\$25.00) ★★★

2014 Churchview St Johns Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon Malbec Merlot Petit Verdot Fresh blackcurrant jam. Good fruit intensity and fairly assertive tannins. (\$35.00) ★★★

- 2014 Sandalford Margaret River Cabernet Merlot** Fresh plums and red fruits with a whiff sulphides. (\$20.00) ★★★
- 2013 Juniper Estate Aquitane Rouge** There's plenty of rich flavour in a fairly grippy, plummy style. Give it time to soften. (\$33.75) ★★★
- 2012 Pierro Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Reserve** Decidedly developed colour. Interesting and complex, but shows a lot of flavour maturity for a four year old red wine. (\$68.90) ★★★
- 2013 Pierro Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot LTCf** Light colour. Some development. Too lean. (\$38.90) ★★☆
- 2009 Umamu Estate Margaret River Cabernet Merlot** Quite developed but still has red berry aroma and flavour. Comparatively astringent finish. (\$34.00) ★★☆
- 2012 Higher Plane The Messenger** A substantial red with fairly assertive tannins on the finish. (\$45.00) ★★☆
- 2014 Windows Estate Basket Pressed Margaret River Cabernet Merlot** Fresh ripe cassis and plum. Extractive tannins. (\$29.00) ★★☆
- 2013 Woody Nook Margaret River Cabernet Merlot** Ripe and brooding. Chunky, astringent tannins. (\$26.00) ★★
- 2013 Flowstone Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon Touriga** Dull, developed and jammy. (\$36.00) ★★

The weak, advanced colours of some of the wines was off-putting. We realise that some producers employ extended post-ferment maceration, and that leads to some sacrifice of colour. However, a number of wines also showed very advanced characteristics typical of much more age.

Pre-2014 CHARDONNAY

- 2012 Victory Point Margaret River Chardonnay** The rich white peach and nougat aromas are backed up by classy oak. A mouthfilling chardonnay that is full of life and ready to drink. (\$40.00) ★★★★★
- 2013 Flowstone Margaret River Chardonnay** It's a wild and funky style with a rich peachiness, but we found the sulphidic side a bit too obvious. (\$31.00) ★★☆
- 2013 Peccavi Margaret River Chardonnay** Fresh and peachy. Some development. A little forward. (\$40.00) ★★☆
- 2009 Umamu Estate Margaret River Chardonnay** Fully developed. Nutty. Holding on, but is starting to dry out. (\$50.00) ★★☆

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