



MARGARET RIVER WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

2013 Margaret River Wine Region – Vintage Report as at 14th March

As was the case last year for 2013 warm to hot conditions during the day with warmer than average nights have been the norm for Margaret River since early January with the weather only really cooling down since the end of February.

The white wine vintage has been completed with those south of Margaret River finishing off at the end of the first week in March. Yields have been lower than forecast, more likely returning to an 'average year' when compared to the 2012 bumper harvest especially for Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon along with Chardonnay. SBS /SSB blends have been impacted by the cooler spring with Chardonnay also affected somewhat with high winds during flowering likely to have also played a part.

With almost ideal weather conditions for whites exceptional fruit has been produced showing intense varietal flavours that are typical Margaret River. Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon being aromatic varieties are outstanding with fresh citrus, lemon blossom and stone fruit on the nose and palate balanced off by crisp acidity.

Chardonnay already is highlighted by an outstanding balanced line of natural acidity with full rich flavours almost citrus and nectarine with soft and fine phenolics.

Since the end of February it has been cooler across the board with even some chilly periods with heavy dew experienced. This is exactly what is needed for the red varieties to fully ripen their flavour profiles and tannins with Dunsborough and Yallingup areas set to begin harvest in the next week or so.

Cabernet Sauvignon is ripening steadily, with the cornerstone blackcurrant characters appearing in the fruit. With the cooler conditions tannins are ripening in sync with the fruit character, so 2013 should exhibit wonderful balance in the resulting wines something for which Margaret River is well known.

Once again there has been a huge amount of Marri blossom throughout the region leading into vintage that is still present now, just like 1994 and 2012. Therefore, bird damage particularly from Silvereyes has been minimal. In addition there has been little disease pressure because of the excellent growing conditions.

MEDIA RELEASE

ENDS – Dated 14th March 2013

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