

Margaret River: Chardonnay Lovers' Paradise

PROWEIN 2024, DÜSSELDORF

MONDAY 11TH MARCH, 2024









MARGARET RIVER WINE REGION

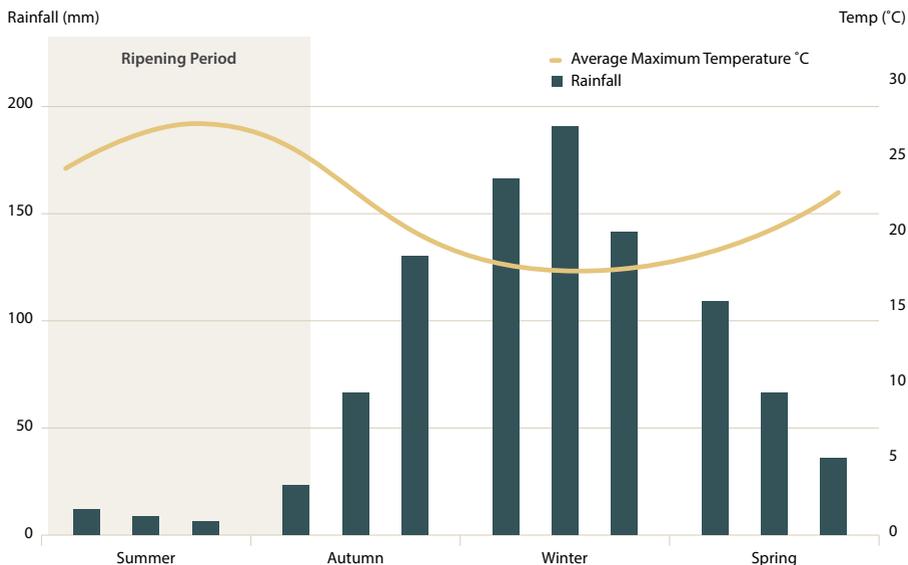
Margaret River is one of the Earth's most pristine, geographically secluded, coastal wine regions. This breathtaking destination of ancient landforms, lush forests and distinct Ironstone gravel soils enjoys a 'textbook perfect' climate for fine wines, with its consistent Mediterranean climate and intense maritime influence – here, the Indian and Southern Oceans meet.

Scarce and sought-after worldwide, Margaret River wines represent only 2% of the Australian annual crush. The elegant and powerful Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay expressions are most noteworthy and can be grown with a 'light touch' approach, as the grapes typically ripen with superb balance, refinement and structure. Artisan and family-owned producers dominate, and their preference for handcrafted winemaking and respectful creativity shines through.

A world-renowned wine destination, the region's 100 cellar doors, gourmet culinary experiences, stunning nature and spirited arts scene attracts over 1.5 million overnight visitors per year.

Location:	300kms South-South West of Perth, Western Australia Latitude: 33°31'S (Cape Naturaliste) to 34°22'S (Cape Leeuwin) Longitude: 114°58' (Cape Clairault) to 115 18'E (Gladstones Line)
Size of total region:	213,000ha with 98,750ha remnant vegetation (46%) 110kms (68mi) from north to south 27kms from east to west (17mi)
Area under vine:	5,840ha
2022 Harvest:	30,975 tonnes (less than 2% of Australia's wine grape crush)
Wine producers:	185 (Over 60% crush less than 50 tonnes). Margaret River is a boutique wine region.
Climate:	Mediterranean with a strong maritime influence Annual rainfall 1,000mm+ January mean temperature: 20.6°C (69.1°F)
Highest Elevation:	231 metres
Harvest:	Early February – Mid to Late April
Soil:	Whilst the unique Forest Grove ironstone soils are some of the most acclaimed, the region's diversity of soil types offer optimal conditions for a myriad of grape varieties, styles and wine complexity.

Margaret River rainfall and temperatures



Source: Bureau of Meterology. Witchcliffe Site Statistics 1999 – 2011. Latitude: 34.03°S Longitude: 115.10°E



THE STORY OF MARGARET RIVER'S CHARDONNAY

Chardonnay is the leading white wine grape variety grown in Margaret River.

The high-quality wines stand alongside some of the greatest in the world.

Margaret River is recognised for its pure, layered and expressive Chardonnays. The wines tend to be concentrated yet refined. Complexity is often expressed through natural fermentation in French oak barrels, building texture and secondary character development from maturation on lees.

Descriptors: mandarin, grapefruit, nectarine/white peach, gunflint, nougat

Many Chardonnay vineyards are based on Western Australia's heritage Gingin clone. This produces low crops of small bunches with "hen and chicken" berries. The tonnes per hectare vary by site from as low as 2 tonnes to 5 or 6 tonnes per hectare. The tiny berries in Gingin bunches provide intense fruit concentration and mineral acidity, in a distinguished regional style.



GINGIN CLONE CHARACTERISTICS

The Gingin clone vine vigour is moderate, bunches are usually smaller, around 70 to 100 grams which typically offer much more fruit concentration than other Chardonnay clones. Bunches ripen slowly and retain flavour and natural grape acid which is an asset. The clone requires less winemaking influence to build weight which allows the pure fruit flavours of the vineyard to be retained.

Gingin produces a great intensity of fruit and maintains wonderful acidity and elegance. While Chardonnay styles are often influenced by winemaking intent, generosity of flavour is the hallmark of Gingin clone Chardonnay grown in Margaret River.

RESPECTFUL GRAPE GROWING & WINEMAKING

The innate suitability of Margaret River's land and climate to fine wine viticulture enables vignerons to grow outstanding grapes while working with the environment, holistically. Traditional, sustainable and organic practices are increasingly adopted here, with numerous wineries taking their commitment to the next level through certifications.

Adopting Organic and Biodynamic Practices

A growing number of vineyards are embracing reduced chemical use along with more regulated organic and biodynamic practices to maximise vine health and minimise harm to the surrounding ecology, returning good inputs such as compost back to the land.

At present, 738 hectares, or 12.6% of the region's vineyards are certified organic or biodynamic. At present, 738 hectares, or 12.6% of the region's vineyards are certified organic or biodynamic.

To identify the grape growers and vineyards in the Margaret River Wine Region who are certified as organic, biodynamic, or those in the process of gaining certification, see www.margaretriverorganicwine.com

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia

The Margaret River Wine Association is progressing towards an ambitious goal to achieve 100% of members compliant to the national Sustainable Winegrowing Australia program (and 50% certified) by December 2025.

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia is Australia's national program for grape growers and winemakers to demonstrate and continuously improve their sustainable practices in the vineyard and winery through the environmental, social and economic aspects of their businesses.

This program is an obvious extension of the natural environmental advantage of Margaret River as one of the world's most pristine fine wine producing regions and complements the Association's ongoing sustainability work.

The Margaret River Wine Region supports Sustainable Winegrowing Australia with:

- 75 Vineyard Members.
 - 60 Certified Vineyard Members.
- 23 Winery Members.
 - 19 Certified Winery Members.
- 4 Wine Business Members.
 - 1 Certified Wine Business Member.
- **A total of 80 Certified Members**



Search members at www.sustainablewinegrowing.com.au



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).

Halliday Wine Companion

The Halliday Wine Companion has long established itself as the ultimate guide for Australian wines and wineries. Since 1986, Halliday has published an annual overview of Australian wine, continuously singling the Margaret River Wine Region out for its superb high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.

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
TOTAL	43	54	33	34
% of Margaret River Wines	49%	39%	42%	56%

"While 2022 aligns with a 'warm vintage' categorization, it must be said that I am really quite excited to see what the season has in store for us. The Chardonnays were tragically low in yields but pleasingly sensational in quality, providing us with yet another year in which we must seek out and obtain great wines from very little produced."

Erin Larkin,
Robert Parker Wine Advocate.



wayfinder

Wine 1	Wayfinder Chardonnay 2022
Vineyard	Wayfinder Vineyard
Locality	33°84'S 115°07'E, Altitude 105m, 6.9km from the ocean
Soils	Forest grove gravely loam over granite
Vine Age	26 years old
Clone	Gingin Chardonnay/Unknown
Harvest	Hand-harvested, 18th February 2022
Winemaking	Our Chardonnay was harvested by hand and whole-bunch pressed, yielding high quality free-run juice with delicate citrus and stone fruit flavours. The juice was settled overnight and racked into 10% new French oak. The wines underwent wild fermentation by native yeast and were matured for 11 months on lees prior to bottling.
Oak	10% new French oak barriques, 11 months
Wine Analysis	Alc 12.5%, pH 3.11, TA 7.93g/L
Winemaker	Andrew Trio
Accolades	93 points (Silver Medal) - 2023 Halliday Australia Chardonnay and Cabernet Challenge
Social Media	Facebook - @Wayfinder Wines Instagram - @wayfinderwines
Winery Contact	Paul McArdle - paul@overstory.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$45
Certification	ACO Certified Organic Vineyard

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Wine 2	Stella Bella Luminosa Chardonnay 2022
Vineyard	Luminosa Vineyard
Locality	Gnarawary Rd in Boodjidup Valley, Wallcliffe - 33°99'S 115°07'E, Altitude 83-95m
Soils	Top Soil - Loamy soils combined with high organic matter and small ironstone rocks Sub Soil - Ironstone levels increasing in size and frequency with depth
Vine Age	25 years (planted 1997)
Clone	100% Gingin Chardonnay
Harvest	21st February 2022
Winemaking	The endemic Gingin Chardonnay clone was handpicked in two parcels during the cool of the morning at the perfect flavour ripeness. Whole bunch pressed to maintain fruit purity. Settled over night and transferred on lees to French oak barrels for natural fermentation. Very minimal bâtonnage. Bottled unfined and unfiltered.
Oak	French oak, 9 months - 42% new, 40% 2nd, 20% 3rd (100% Mercurey VTG ST)
Wine Analysis	Alc 13.1%, pH 3.05, TA 8.21g/L
Winemaker	Luke Jolliffe
Accolades	Trophy for Best Chardonnay and Best White Table Wine of Show - Royal Queensland Wine Awards 2023 Trophy for Best Chardonnay and Most Outstanding White Wine of Show - Royal Adelaide Wine Show 2023 Gold Medal + 97 points - International Wine & Spirits Competition 2023 (Top Rated Chardonnay) Gold Medals - Margaret River Wine Show 2023, Wine Show of Western Australia 2023, Perth Royal Wine Awards 2023, Halliday Chardonnay & Cabernet Challenge 2023
Social Media	@stellabellawines
Winery Contact	Deejay Parker - deejay@stellabella.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$100
Certification	Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Certified Vineyard and Winery since 2022

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MARGARET RIVER

Wine 3	Xanadu Reserve Chardonnay 2022
Vineyard	Lagan Estate, Xanadu
Locality	33°58.2'S 115°02.7'E; elevation 60 metres; distance from coast 4.5km
Soils	Gravelly loam + ironstone
Vine Age	42 years (planted in 1981)
Clone	Gingin Clone
Harvest	25 February 2022
Winemaking	All of the fruit was hand-picked and whole bunch pressed followed by 100% barrel fermentation in select French oak (24% new). Fermentation was allowed to occur naturally, with the wild yeasts responsible for the fermentation introducing more complexity and personality into the wine. Barrels were lees stirred throughout a nine-month oak maturation period, without any malolactic fermentation. Only the best barrels were selected for the final blend which was put together in November 2022.
Oak	French barriques, 9 months, 24% new
Wine Analysis	Alc 12.8%, pH 3.06, TA 9.2g/L
Winemaker	Glenn Goodall
Accolades	Gold Medal - Margaret River Wine Show
Social Media	@xanaduwines
Winery Contact	Glenn Goodall - ggoodall@xanaduwines.com
RRP (AUD)	\$120
Certification	Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, Certified Vineyard and Winery since 2011

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VASSE FELIX
MARGARET RIVER

Wine 4	Vasse Felix Heytesbury Chardonnay 2022
Vineyard	Home Vineyard, Wilyabrup and Gnarawary Vineyard, Wallcliffe
Locality	Home Vineyard - Latitude: 33°49'S Longitude: 115°02'E Altitude: 80-110m Distance from the coast: 4km Gnarawary Vineyard - Latitude: 33°59'S Longitude: 115°05'E Altitude: 80-95m
Soils	Home Vineyard - Ironstone gravel soils Gnarawary Vineyard - Gravel and sandy loam
Vine Age	First plantings in the 1990's with subsequent plantings throughout the 2000's
Clone	Gingin Clone
Harvest	16 February - 4 March 2022
Winemaking	100% Gingin clone from our most unique small vineyard sections on specific aspect and soil to ignite very special varietal and wild yeast influence. Hand harvested, whole-bunches were pressed and transferred direct to barrel as unclarified juice. Only natural yeasts from the vineyard fermented the wine and was nurtured in our cellar for 15 months, 8 of which were in oak with some lees stirring.
Oak	French oak barriques, 56% new, 44% 1-3 year old, for 8 months
Wine Analysis	Alc 13.0%, pH 3.13, TA 6.4g/L
Winemaker	Virginia Willcock
Accolades	98 points - Reviewed by James Suckling, Top 100 Wines of the World 2022
Social Media	@vassefelixwines
Winery Contact	Erin O'Neil - Erin.oneil@heytesburywine.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$120

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VOYAGER ESTATE

MARGARET RIVER

Wine 5	Voyager Estate MJW Chardonnay 2022
Vineyard	Broadvale Block 5
Locality	Stevens Valley - 34°S 115°18'E, Altitude 40-90m
Soils	Extremely gravelly, high granite content and stony, clay base
Vine Age	Approx. 20 years
Clone	100% Gingin Chardonnay
Harvest	A cool start to the season delayed flowering and slowed early vine growth, but by late December our organic farming practices had the vineyard well placed for another stellar vintage. Healthy canopies kept the grapes cool through summer and preserved the freshness beautifully. Harvest finished up in early April, with the whites showing purity of fruit and incredible vitality.
Winemaking	Gingin clone Chardonnay from the western slope of Broadvale Block 5 was hand-harvested and whole bunch pressed, before natural yeast fermentation in French oak barriques. Bâtonnage occurred monthly, until blending in November 2022 and bottling in January 2023.
Oak	French oak, 9 months, 37% new
Wine Analysis	Alc 13.0%, pH 3.25, TA 6.6g/L
Winemaker	Tim Shand
Accolades	96 points - Erin Larkin, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate
Social Media	@voyagerestate
Winery Contact	Fiona Findlay - ffindlay@voyagerestate.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$140
Certification	Certified Organic and Sustainable Winegrowing Australia Certified Vineyard and Winery since 2010

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