

GREAT SOUTHERN GEMS: RIESLING & SYRAH

ProWein 2024, Düsseldorf

Tuesday 12th March, 2024

GREAT
SOUTHERN
WINE
REGION 

These scattered vineyards produce far more than their fair share of Australia's most lauded wines, wines with a distinctive lightness of touch combined with ripeness of fruit - an unusual combination in Australia.

HUGH JOHNSON & JANCIS ROBINSON MW,
THE WORLD ATLAS

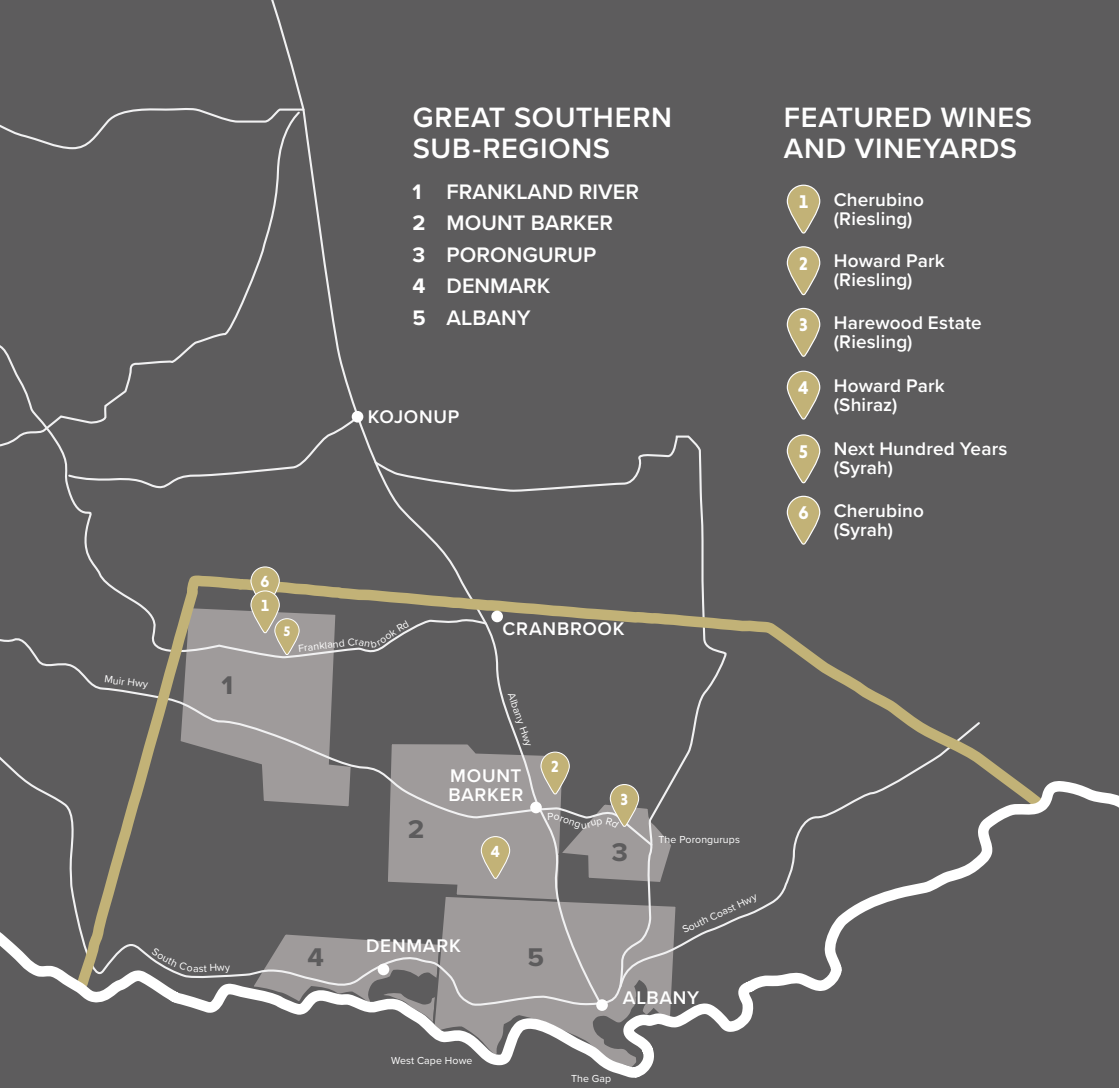


GREAT SOUTHERN SUB-REGIONS

- 1 FRANKLAND RIVER
- 2 MOUNT BARKER
- 3 PORONGURUP
- 4 DENMARK
- 5 ALBANY

FEATURED WINES AND VINEYARDS

- 1 Cherubino (Riesling)
- 2 Howard Park (Riesling)
- 3 Harewood Estate (Riesling)
- 4 Howard Park (Shiraz)
- 5 Next Hundred Years (Syrah)
- 6 Cherubino (Syrah)



SOUTHERN OCEAN



GREAT SOUTHERN WINE REGION OVERVIEW

In spite of its enormity, diversity and isolated bearings – or perhaps because of them – Great Southern has managed to forge an identity all of its own over the course of its relatively short winemaking history. The intrepid spirit of the growers and winemakers, as well as their steadfast commitment to quality, has given rise to an impressive and ever-expanding stable of benchmark wine styles.



Geography

Deep down at the very bottom of Western Australia lies Great Southern, Australia's largest wine region. It is as vast and isolated as it is diverse – a patchwork of coastal maritime land, gently undulating hills, open grazing country, eucalypt forests and granite outcrops, spanning 100 kilometres (62 miles) from north to south and 150 kilometres (93 miles) east to west. It is made up of five official subregions – Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker and Porongurup.

Climate

Taken as a whole, Great Southern is the coolest wine region in Western Australia. The climate is largely Mediterranean, with cool to mild winters and warm summers, but varies greatly across subregions, creating multiple microclimates and mesoclimates. As you move north, away from the coastal subregions of Albany and Denmark, overall temperatures increase and climatic conditions shift from maritime to continental. Careful site selection allows the production of virtually every wine style.

Soils

The predominant soils in Great Southern are lateritic gravelly sandy loams (Marri Country) and sandy loams deriving directly from granite and gneissic bedrocks. Frankland River, Albany and Mount Barker feature lateritic gravelly sands and loams over clay, Albany is home to sandy gravelly soils and Porongurup consists of karri loams. Fertility is moderate, as are typical yields.





Hero white variety - Riesling

Great Southern is renowned for elegant, structured, cool-climate wines, and Riesling is widely considered its hero white variety. The region is known for producing exceptional Rieslings of great intensity, typically in the citrus spectrum with an underlay of herbs and minerals. Fresh and nery in their youth, they tend to age superbly, seldom reaching the peak of their maturity in less than 10 years.

Linear bone-dry styles are common, with some single-vineyard releases consistently ranking among Australia's best. Wild fermentation, riper fruit spectrum, higher residual sugar, neutral oak and extended ageing on lees are becoming increasingly common with single-vineyard releases.



The rieslings of Western Australia's Great Southern region, Western Australia's largest officially ratified Geographical Indication (G.I.), continue their trajectory upward to new levels of quality, interest and sheer deliciousness. Explore these wines with confidence, they represent outstanding value in a global sense and you can (literally) taste the beauty of this remote Western Australian wine region in every single glass.

NICK STOCK,
JAMESUCKLING.COM

Hero red variety - Shiraz

Great Southern is renowned for elegant, structured wines including Shiraz, which is the region's most widely planted red variety.

Great Southern's cool climate naturally plays into great aromatic complexity, with styles ranging from medium to full-bodied depending on vine age, site and winemaking intent.

Proximity to the coast is a major stylistic influence, with rainfall sitting at around 1,000mm a year in Denmark and Albany versus 600mm in northern Frankland River.

Drier conditions inland in Porongurup, Mount Barker and Frankland River together with marked continentality (higher diurnal temperature variation), allow for a longer ripening period, resulting in greater flavour intensity and structure than is commonly found in the coastal subregions of Albany and Denmark.

With vibrant characters of blackberry, black cherry, blood plum, liquorice, pepper and spice and a fine tannin profile, many Great Southern producers stay away from the heavy-handed use of new oak, allowing the fruit to shine through. Deft use of whole bunch to amplify the cool climate spicy profile is on the up.

Great Southern has 2,545 hectares under vine. Riesling represents approx. 8.5% of the total crush and Shiraz approx. 29% (based on 5yr data from 2016-2020).





CHERUBINO

Wine 1	<i>Cherubino Laissez Faire Riesling 2023</i>
Vineyard	Riversdale Vineyard
Locality	Frankland River – 34°31'S 116°97'E, Altitude 150m
Soils	Lateric gravel and sandy loams derived from granite
Vine Age	30+ years
Harvest	March 2023
Winemaking	Fruit was hand-picked and whole bunch pressed. Juice was settled without the addition of enzymes, sulphur or acid. Once settled, it fermented naturally at low temperature for six weeks.
Wine Analysis	Alc 13.0%, pH 2.91, TA 7.95g/L
Winemaker	Larry Cherubino
Accolades	95 points (Elite) - Canberra International Riesling Challenge 2023 Gold Medal - Wine Show of Western Australia 2023
Social Media	Facebook - @CherubinoWines Instagram - @cherubinowines
Winery Contact	Lucy Anderson - lucy@cherubinowines.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$34

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HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

Wine 2	<i>Howard Park Great Southern Riesling 2023</i>
Vineyard	Mount Barrow and Gibraltar Rock vineyards
Locality	34°61'S 117°73'E, Altitude 280-380m
Soils	Sandy clay loams over clay with high ironstone gravel content
Vine Age	25 years
Harvest	Late February 2023
Winemaking	Each vineyard block is vinified separately in stainless steel tanks. After settling bright, the free run juice is racked before a long and cold fermentation to preserve regional character and delicate fruit flavours. Blending occurs in June of the vintage year, with the objective of showcasing the typicity of each site in the final wine.
Wine Analysis	Alc 12.0%, pH 2.97, TA 8.5g/L, RS 1.4g/L
Winemaker	Nic Bowen
Accolades	91 points – JamesSuckling.com
Social Media	@howardparkwines
Winery Contact	Richard Burch - richard@hpw.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$35

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HAREWOOD ESTATE
GREAT SOUTHERN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Wine 3	<i>Harewood Estate Porongurup Riesling 2023</i>
Vineyard	Jingalla Vineyard
Locality	Porongurup, Great Southern - 34°40'S 117°53'E, Altitude 350m
Soils	Granitic Karri loams
Vine Age	45 years old
Clone	50/50 mix of GM 239 and GM198 (D2V2)
Harvest	1/3 hand-picked with the balance machine harvested at night, 2nd April 2023.
Winemaking	Free run, clear juice was cool fermented (at 12.5°C) in stainless steel tanks with Lallemend R-HST yeast. Bottled June 2023.
Wine Analysis	Alc 12.3%, pH 3.15, TA 7.2g/L, RS 7.7g/L
Winemaker	James Kellie
Accolades	Matthew Jukes 100 Best Australian Wines (UK)
Social Media	@Harewood Estate Wines
Winery Contact	James Kellie - james@harewood.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$27

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HOWARD PARK
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

Wine 4	<i>Howard Park Scotsdale Shiraz 2022</i>
Vineyard	Abercrombie Vineyard
Locality	34°76'S 117°49'E, Altitude 230m
Soils	Lateritic gravels over sand
Vine Age	20 years
Harvest	Mid-March 2022
Winemaking	Small parcels were hand-picked and hand-sorted to remove any unwanted material before fermentation. Fermentation occurred in closed stainless steel fermenters and small open top fermenters. Selected parcels remained on skins after fermentation to further enhance the tannin profile while others were pressed at dryness to capture fruit vibrancy. Each batch was matured separately in order to build a wine history over time. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and matured in French oak (~25% new) for 18 months prior to blending, fining and bottling.
Oak	18 months in French oak puncheons, 25% new
Varieties	100% Shiraz
Wine Analysis	Alc 12.0%, pH 2.97, TA 8.5g/L, RS 1.4g/L
Winemaker	Nic Bowen
Accolades	New release – not yet reviewed
Social Media	@howardparkwines
Winery Contact	Richard Burch - richard@hpw.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$40

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THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS

Wine 5	<i>The Next Hundred Years Syrah 2022</i>
Vineyard	Frankland River
Locality	34°36'S 117°08'E, Altitude 150m
Soils	Ironstone gravel soils
Vine Age	25+ years
Harvest	March 2022, selective harvester
Winemaking	The fruit was picked in the cool of night, processed using the de-stemmer only (no crusher) to stainless steel static fermenters, inoculated for primary ferment, pumped over 3 times per day and left on skins for 10 days. Malolactic fermentation was encouraged during the primary ferment. The wine was then pressed to tank and subsequently matured in French oak barriques, 20% new. Blended with 2% barrel-fermented Viognier and bottled in June 2023.
Oak	French oak barriques, 20% new, 15 months
Varieties	Syrah 98%, Viognier 2%
Wine Analysis	Alc 14.0%, pH 3.47, TA 6.31g/L
Winemaker	Vanessa Carson
Accolades	Trophy for Best Great Southern Red Wine - Wine Show of Western Australia 2023
Social Media	Facebook - @Plan B! Wines Instagram - @plan_b_wines
Winery Contact	Terry Chellappah
RRP (AUD)	\$60

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CHERUBINO

Wine 6	<i>Cherubino Laissez Faire Syrah 2021</i>
Vineyard	Riversdale Vineyard
Locality	Frankland River – 34°31'S 116°97'E, Altitude 250m
Soils	Granite based soils
Vine Age	30+ years
Harvest	March 2021
Winemaking	Grapes were hand-harvested, sorted and naturally fermented. The wine spent six months in four-year old French oak prior to bottling. As the name suggests, no acid, enzymes or yeast were used in the making of this wine.
Oak	500-1500L oak foudre
Varieties	100% Syrah
Wine Analysis	Alc 15.0%, pH 3.50, TA 6.4g/L
Winemaker	Larry Cherubino
Accolades	New release – not yet reviewed
Social Media	Facebook - @CherubinoWines Instagram - @cherubinowines
Winery Contact	Lucy Anderson - lucy@cherubinowines.com.au
RRP (AUD)	\$44

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Department of
Primary Industries and
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Proudly supported by WA WINES TO THE WORLD, an industry-led Export Growth Partnership coordinated by Wines of WA, co-funded by DPIRD

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