



CAPE MENTELLE

MARGARET RIVER

A photograph of a vineyard at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The vineyard rows stretch into the distance, with a line of trees on the horizon. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the word "STORY" in a dark blue, serif font.

STORY



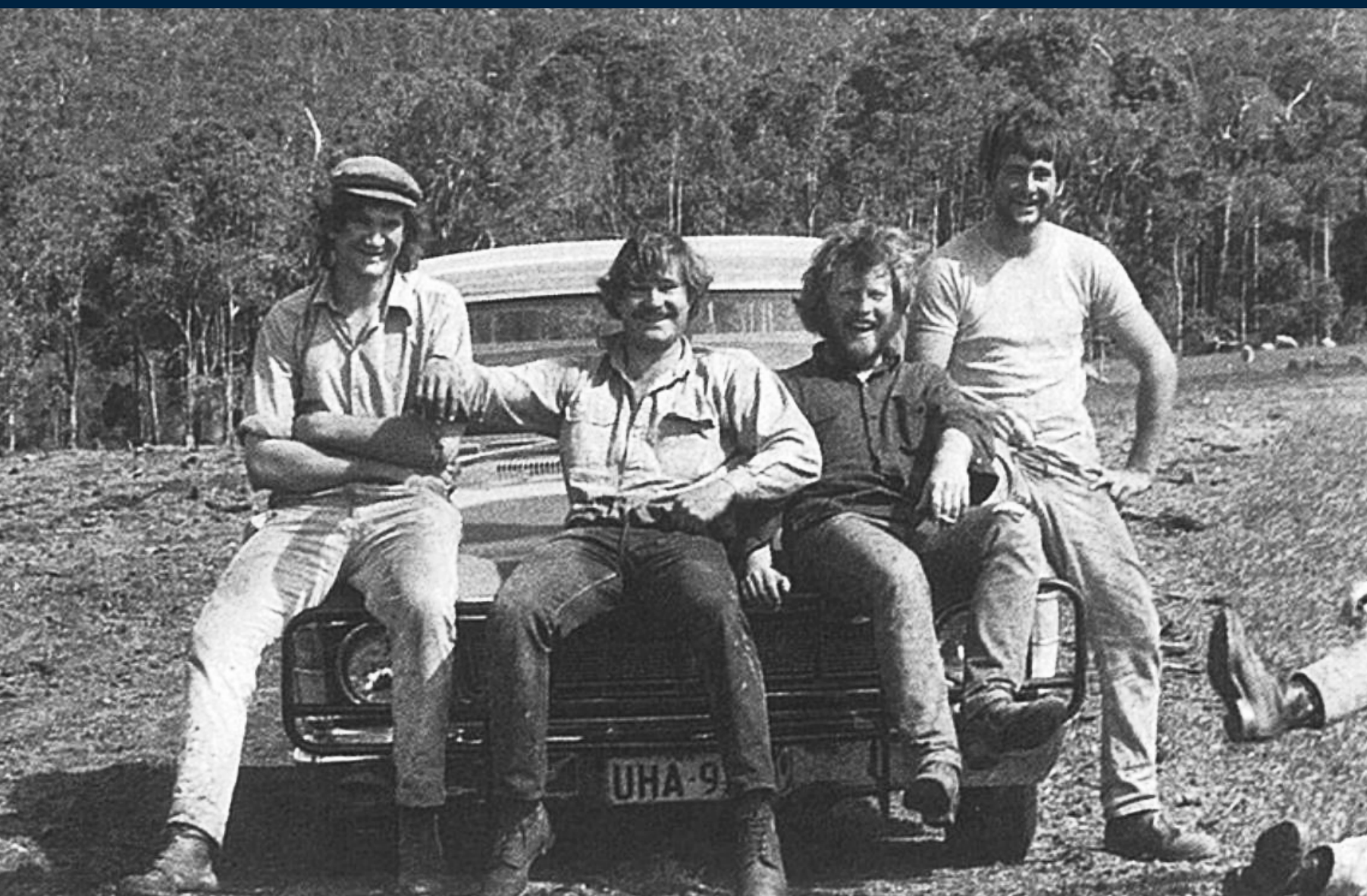
A FOUNDING WINERY OF MARGARET RIVER, SETTLED IN 1970

Cape Mentelle's success is the result of a family's labour of love and one man's unfaltering belief that Australian wines belong amongst the greatest of the world. Thanks to their determination and the award of prestigious wine trophies in the Estate's early years, Cape Mentelle has contributed significantly to putting Margaret River on the global wine map and establishing the region's reputation in fine winemaking. Founder David Hohnen's unconventional and pioneering spirit resonates with the current winemaking team who continuously conduct exciting experiments to uncover the full potential of the many treasures of the land yet to be discovered.

A WINE PARADISE

Located on the southwest corner of Australia, Margaret River is a peninsula at the intersection of the Indian and Southern Oceans, at the tip of which sits Cape Mentelle. This unique position gives the terroir one of the most reliable and stable climates of the continent in terms of rainfall and temperature. A world away in style and geography from the warmer wine regions of Australia, Margaret River is a remote heartland and epicentre of Australia's finest boutique vineyards, responsible for 20% of Australia's 'premium wine' but less than 2% of its total volume. Coined a "wine paradise," the region attracts some of the best talent internationally.





THE HOHNENS, A FOUNDING FAMILY

Mere decades ago, few could have anticipated that this wild, ruggedly beautiful place – clearly different from any of the world’s established winemaking regions – could be suitable for viticulture. One pioneering family, however, saw an opportunity and took a risk.

In 1970, John Hohnen, an Australian mining engineer and wine aficionado, oversaw the planting of 12 acres of Cabernet in his family’s vacation property on the Wallcliffe farm in Margaret River, which had previously been used for cattle. At around the same time, a celebrated Australian agronomist, John Gladstones, published his view that the area had a significant climatic advantage for viticulture over the rest of the continent. The land was ripe for discovery.

DAVID HOHNEN, THE MAN BEHIND CAPE MENTELLE

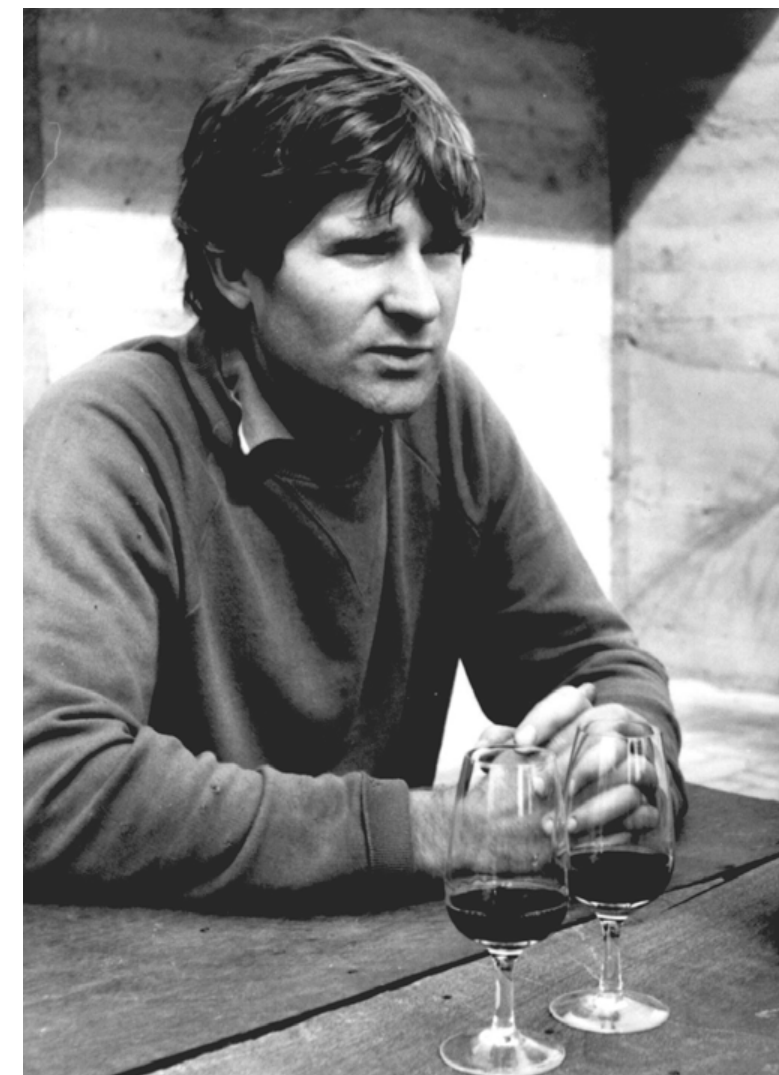
Of Hohnen's four sons, David became most interested in viticulture and went to study winemaking in Fresno, California that same year. Upon his return and throughout the 70s, the family acquired more land and planted additional vines including Shiraz, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. David ultimately took the reins at Cape Mentelle upon his father's retirement.

During the early years of the Estate, he relied on a large amount of scientific research and experiments to improve winemaking techniques, an approach which today still governs winemaking at Cape Mentelle. As a new and remote wine region completely lacking in infrastructure, challenges were abundant, which meant that only the most ingenious could survive. With a drive to innovate

as strong as their means were modest, the first wines of Cape Mentelle were born in a single barrel in David Hohnen's tractor shed.

In 1976, Cape Mentelle achieved a level of quality on par with David's stringent demands and thus presented its first vintage, a Cabernet Sauvignon. Shortly thereafter, the Hohnen family supervised the construction of its new winery.

While constantly innovating with viticulture, varietals and winemaking, the Estate also nurtured its relationships with consumers with Cellar Door events, the International Cabernet Tasting and initiatives like Mentelle Notes, which is today the only wine newsletter kept on file in the Australian National Library.





THE TROPHY THAT PUT MARGARET RIVER ON THE WORLD WINE MAP

Thirty-five years ago, awareness and appreciation of Margaret River's wines were far from widespread but Cape Mentelle changed that in 1983 and 84 when it won two consecutive Jimmy Watson Trophies, Australia's most prestigious wine recognition, for its Cabernet Sauvignon. With this upward momentum came investments in Cape Mentelle by Veuve Clicquot and a new endeavour by David Hohnen in 1985: Cape Mentelle New Zealand, which is known to day as Cloudy Bay. Since the 80s, Cape Mentelle wines have continued to garner accolades within the wine community.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

After David himself, there have only been three other Senior Winemakers at the Estate: John Durham, Robert Mann and Frédérique Perrin, the Estate's current Technical Director. Each perpetuates Hohnen's ethos of exploration and pioneering spirit with unique and expressive wines.





CAPE
MENTELLE
MARGARET RIVER



SHIRAZ 2017
MARGARET RIVER - AUSTRALIA

WINES

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The king of grapes and the emblematic red wine of Cape Mentelle. Cabernet Sauvignon was the first varietal planted by the Hohnens in the 1970s and the Estate's first wine, which was commercially released in 1976. Since then, Cabernet Sauvignon has been at the heart of Cape Mentelle from the inspired 1982-83 vintages that won consecutive Jimmy Watson awards and put the region on the map to the annual International Cabernet Tastings exploring

great examples from around the globe. Extraordinary detail is undertaken especially in the vineyard but also within the cellar to create the pinnacle of wines each year within the portfolio. Attention to detail is unsurpassed in treating each micro-plot and each bunch with the utmost care; the spirit of exploration and experimentation is never better expressed than with the Cabernet Sauvignon. This precise, intense and elegant wine can be cellared for 20-30 years.





CHARDONNAY

A fully expressive wine of both richness and minerality that speaks loudly of Margaret River. Cape Mentelle Chardonnay reveals fragrance, texture and elegance wrapped in an exquisite package. The wine was first presented in 1987 but has evolved over the years and, most recently under Frédérique Perrin has reached a new expression. Thriving in cool climates, Chardonnay in Margaret River has developed worldwide renown. Perrin had visited Margaret River 20 years earlier as an intern from Burgundy and was deeply impressed with the variety.

Whilst working in Burgundy, she developed a love for Chardonnay, derived from the simple task of crushing grape samples and tasting juices at harvest, and thus she had her epiphany that winemaking was her true calling. After working all across the world, she returned to Margaret River and introduced such techniques as wild fermentation and lees aging together with a carefully selected Burgundian oak program to elevate the Cape Mentelle style. This elegant, fragrant and textured wine has a cellaring potential of 15 to 20 years.

SHIRAZ

The Queen of varietals in Margaret River, Cape Mentelle Shiraz is a revelation of the region: a generous and friendly wine, full of fruit, with both power and finesse. Inspired by winemaking techniques from the Rhone Valley and his great love of wines from France, David Hohnen created Cape Mentelle Shiraz in 1983. However, in the early years of Margaret River, other varietals initially took the spotlight. Exploring the deep savoury elements of this grape whilst accentuating the floral componentry, Viognier was gradually introduced to elevate the white

and purple blossom notes and enrich the viscosity and sumptuous nature of the palate. The region-specific note of orange marmalade mixes with those of white and black pepper, which identify this as truly Australian yet with the unique umami and saline characters reminiscent of the cool maritime origins of Margaret River. Over the years, the Wallcliffe Vineyard stood out as particularly exceptional and, in 2003, the Estate bottled the first single vineyard Wallcliffe Shiraz. This bold, generous, expressive and hearty wine can age gracefully for over 20 years.





SAUVIGNON BLANC SEMILLON

Now a classic of Margaret River, the duality of this wine echoes the two forces governing its terroir: land and ocean. While the ocean freshness comes through the Sauvignon Blanc, the land is expressed through the texture of the Semillon. It is a fresh and lively wine, created with a minimalist intervention approach to preserve as much fruit intensity and regional character as possible, whilst providing a full-flavoured distinctive white wine.

ROSÉ

Brought back to Cape Mentelle by Technical Director Frédérique Perrin after nearly 40 years, this wine incarnates the Estate's Ethos of Exploration. Not released beyond the Cape Mentelle's own cellars since the 1970s, the Rosé was reborn through an opportunistic bottling from the 2015 harvest. That year, the risk of heavy rain drove Perrin to harvest the Grenache from the Crossroads vineyard early, before it attained the ripeness for a still red wine. Whimsically, she decided to make a few cases

of rosé that could be used for the staff to drink at the beach or served during the outdoor movies. When visitors from Moët Hennessy tasted it, they immediately asked how quickly this delicious wine could be made available to the US market. While the initial rosé was 60% Shiraz, 40% Grenache, the Estate has adapted its style to be a blend of different flavourful varieties. Fresh, fruity, juicy and silky, Cape Mentelle Rosé is best enjoyed within 12-24 months.





SHIRAZ CABERNET

A uniquely Australian blend, born from the generosity and spice of shiraz, complementing the structure and length of Cabernet Sauvignon. The grace and structure of Cabernet is melded with the generosity and spiciness of Shiraz to create a marvellous Margaret River classic. Cape Mentelle's first vintage of Shiraz Cabernet was 2016. A versatile favourite, this wine shows more restraint and complexity than those from warmer regions of Australia and can be cellared for up to 10 years.

CABERNET MERLOT

A soft and distinctive expression of Cabernet from Cape Mentelle, crafted to be enjoyed upon release with a great food-friendliness. This wine was first presented in 1990 from Cape Mentelle's youngest vineyard at the time, Trinders. With Cape Mentelle Cabernet Merlot, the winemaking team's objective is to create a unique style from Cabernet Sauvignon that is supple and balanced, predominantly fruit-driven with supporting oak. It is medium to full-bodied with a cellaring potential of up to 12 years.






VINEYARDS

The birth of Cape Mentelle was the result of a search for the sites that would give the best possible grapes. After extensive experimentation, the Cape Mentelle winemaking team understood the unique potential of specific vineyards in the area and decided to acquire them in order to develop a distinctive style and best capitalise on the diversity of the Margaret River terroir. The objective was to encapsulate the unique attributes of these different “micro-terroirs,” or vineyard subsections sharing similar profiles. There are 3 core micro-terroirs across 4 vineyards.

Sustainability is at the heart of Cape Mentelle, the first winery in Western Australia to be accredited under Sustainable Australia program. The team shares a love for the land and a deep commitment to sustainability that underpin every decision and operation.





The Estate's Wallcliffe and Trinders Vineyards are located 2km west of Margaret River town with a south aspect. Both share gravelly ironstone soils with excellent drainage.

WALLCLIFFE VINEYARD

Established in the early 1970s, this 16ha property is the original Cape Mentelle vineyard and the birthplace of the Jimmy Watson Cabernet Sauvignon. Originally the Hohnen family's vacation farm, it is now home to plantings of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel and Shiraz. Its location is particularly suited to red varieties with great proximity to the ocean, ideal for Cabernet.

TRINDERS VINEYARD

Named after a famed local grammar school educator, this 23ha vineyard was developed on the eastern side of the Estate driveway in 1988 and is planted in Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Shiraz. Trinders has been Cape Mentelle's testing ground for early 'organic' methods such as compost for vine nutrition and under vine weeding.

CHAPMAN BROOK VINEYARD

This 40ha property was planted in the early 1990s primarily for white varieties. It is located 20km southeast of Margaret River township and has a predominantly easterly aspect with some southeast and northeast slopes. With Chapman Brook, Cape Mentelle was looking for a cooler site, farther back from the ocean to get cooler nights in the growing season and better freshness for the white varieties. Mendosa Chardonnay, also known as the Gin Gin clone – derived from an old Wente clone from Davis, California – is planted here, as well as Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Chardonnay and Viognier.





CROSSROADS VINEYARD

The 50ha vineyard is bisected by the original railway line of the Margaret River peninsula. While tracks are no longer in use, their path has been converted into the 'rails to trails' cycle track for visitors, offering unique views of the Cape Mentelle vineyards on either side. Planted in 2003, Crossroads grows Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Chardonnay in descending quantities, as well as Shiraz and small amounts of Petit Verdot and Grenache. It is Cape Mentelle's youngest site but also one of its strongest performers.

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. Silhouettes of trees are visible against the bright sky. In the foreground, there is a field of green plants, possibly a vineyard or agricultural field.

EXPERIMENTATION



The multicultural winemaking team of Cape Mentelle consists of top specialists in their fields, all of whom are continuously investigating new technologies from bespoke techniques, inventions and discoveries. Keeping alive the same curiosity and spirit of exploration of the Estate's founding family, their experiments have resulted in new wines such as Cape Mentelle Rosé, as well as improved techniques like harvesting the grapes in several rounds and painting the vines to delineate fruit at varying levels of ripeness.



CAPE MENTELLE EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CABERNET TASTING

In 1982, Cape Mentelle hosted its first International Cabernet Tasting, which has since become an annual tradition at the Estate. This extended blind tasting showcasing outstanding Cabernet from around the world continues to attract some of the most influential people in the field, bringing together experts, journalists and wine aficionados. The guided tasting is followed by a catered pairing lunch with local ingredients from Margaret River. In the true spirit of community and friendship so characteristic of the Cape Mentelle, the International Cabernet Tasting is not about labels – it is a moment of togetherness and appreciation of wine.





MOVIES AT CAPE MENTELLE

Since the early 2000s, Cape Mentelle has welcomed visitors to its outdoor summer cinema where they can enjoy a gourmet meal with Cape Mentelle wines and watch a new release or old favourite from a beanbag chair in the winery's beautiful gardens. Running for 50 nights during Australian summer, the outdoor movie season embodies the Estate's warm and inviting spirit.



TEAM



BEN CANE,
Winemaker

Ben Cane joined Cape Mentelle in December 2018, combining hands-on winemaking responsibilities with travel to share the winery's ethos of exploration and exceptional wines with the world.

After completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Adelaide, Ben obtained a post-graduate diploma in Oenology and has worked in prestigious wineries in Australia, California, France and Italy for 22 years.

Ben moved to the United States in 2006 and worked in Sonoma, California for 12 years, first at Freestone Winery and later at Twomey Cellars where he developed the Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc program from estate vineyards and independent growers and oversaw the production of premium Cabernet and Bordeaux variety blends.

As head winemaker at boutique winery Westwood Estate from 2014 to 2018, Ben focused on making wine from multiple small parcels of fruit and embarking on a three-year biodynamic conversion of the vineyards.

After working in California's cool climate regions, Ben was keen to continue his passion for wines of elegance, brightness and freshness. Margaret River has always been a stand out for Ben as amongst Australia's most significant wine regions and being beside the ocean was an added drawcard.



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