



VASSE FELIX
MARGARET RIVER



PRODUCER PROFILE

Estate owned by: Paul Holmes a Court
Winemaker: Virginia Willcock
Total acreage under vine: 260
Estate founded: 1967
Region: Margaret River
Country: Australia

Vasse Felix Premier Cabernet Sauvignon 2013

WINE DESCRIPTION

This wine expresses the distinct regional profile of Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon and the site characters it takes from the Vasse Felix vineyards, with a focus on Wilyabrup. It was the first red wine produced in Margaret River and has been made every year since 1972. Cabernet is a robust variety ideally suited to Margaret River's climate and deep, well drained soils.

Mild conditions in Margaret River with no extreme weather conditions, allowing for balanced fruit and a slow and steady intake. There was no disease pressure and fruit quality is excellent the only disappointment was yields being down across the Region for all key varieties. This was the outcome of storms in spring and pressure from an increase in the local population of Silver Eyes (birds) and no Marri Blossom.

Cabernet parcels grown in the coastal, northern reaches of Margaret River on ancient, well drained gravel loam soils produce wines of great varietal purity and character. These wonderful, often tiny, vineyard sections are individually fermented using indigenous yeasts, with many experiencing maceration periods of up to 40 days. Natural fermentation and extended maceration have been coupled with traditional oxidative handling to clearly define the intricate personality of each vineyard site before blending. Small portions of Malbec complement and enhance the Cabernet profile while elevated perfumes and alternative fermentation of Petit Verdot brings a bright nuance.

TASTING NOTES

Ruby with a brick tint. A complex savoury nose embedded with dried twigs, mushroom, soy, kelp, cowhite, peanut husk and cacao. The savoury fragrance gives way to fruit cake notes, with orange peel, red gum flower and concentrated blackcurrant combining to form an alluring bouquet. The palate has a plump entrance and a fruity core led to building fine, ripe tannins. A line of fresh red-berry tang, reminiscent of dried cranberry and blackcurrant flavours, is followed by notes of dry sweet biscuit, chocolate, iron and spicy oak

VINEYARD & PRODUCTION INFO

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| Vineyard name: | selected sites throughout Margaret River |
| Soil composition: | deep gravel loam soil over clay |
| Training method: | VSP, BAL |
| Exposure: | Various |
| Year vineyard planted: | 1967-2008 |
| Harvest time: | March - early April 15 |
| First vintage of this wine: | 1972 |
| Average Wine Age: | 10 - 51 yo |

WINEMAKING & AGING

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| Varietal composition: | 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Malbec, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Merlot |
| Fermentation container: | Static Fermenter and open fermenter |
| Malolactic fermentation: | Full |
| Fining agent: | Egg white |
| Type of aging container: | Barriques |
| Size of aging container: | 225L |
| Age of aging container: | 44% new, 56% 1-3 year old |
| Type of oak: | French |
| Length of aging before bottling: | 15 months |
| Length of bottle aging: | 9 months |
| Prefermentation technique: | 100% wild yeast, 98% whole berry and the 2% Petit Verdot underwent Carbonic maceration before whole bunch fermentation |
| Time on its skins: | 14-40 days |