

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

ASHBROOK ESTATE NEWS

WILYABRUP
MARGARET RIVER
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Spring has sprung!

So far we have experienced a very cool, dry start to the growing season with temperatures below the six-year-average for the entire month of September and well under half our average monthly rainfall. A few random Chardonnay vines hit the snooze button but have now woken up and hit their straps in the warmer, sunnier weather. Vineyard staff currently have their work cut out for them. You can see the vines growing....



Welcome!

To Ashbrook's 2018 Spring edition newsletter. The sunshine has brought with it amazing growth, endless vineyard work and increasing wine consumption, keeping us on our toes! Find out what's happening at Ashbrook in the lead up to summer!

Also in this issue;

2018 whites released!

Riesling, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Verdelho ready for summer

Ashbrook in Bali!

Kingsley MCs wine events at Ayana & Viceroy Luxury Resorts

Wine show medals!

Shiraz silverware
Consistent quality rewarded across the board

New look labels!

Stylish, clear and respecting our heritage

2018 Whites Released

Now in bottle for over four months, our 2018 unwooded whites are ready to go!

Riesling 2018

Our smallest production wine has always enjoyed a cult following and the 2018 certainly won't disappoint. One of the few Margaret River Rieslings around, off 30-year-old vines, on a beautiful site. Consistently deliver fresh citrus and floral characters with a crisp, dry finish. Fabulous as an aperitif or with fresh seafood and has great ageing potential.

Sauvignon Blanc 2018

A vigorous, vertical grower, this variety loves our lyre trellis system. Its canes stand like soldiers to attention allowing the perfect amount of sunlight to kiss the emerald green berries on both sides of the bunches. Consistently a delicious and refreshing wine showing elegant gooseberry and passion fruit flavours.

Semillon 2018

Ashbrook has championed this variety for many years, consistently demonstrating its versatility and complexity. The 2018 vintage is packed with flavours of sweet cut grass, fresh and ripe citrus and hints of tropical fruit. Fantastic with seafood and will reward cellaring for 5+ years.

Verdelho 2018

Coming off the back of the 2017 trophy winning Verdelho, this vintage is equally as good. Highly temperature sensitive in the latter part of ripening, harvest timing is crucial with this variety. Our Verdelho has tropical fruit intensity on the front palate finishing with its signature ethereal, dry finish. Perfect to pair with spicy, flavoursome dishes.

New release Chardonnay, Cabernet & Shiraz wines

Chardonnay 2017

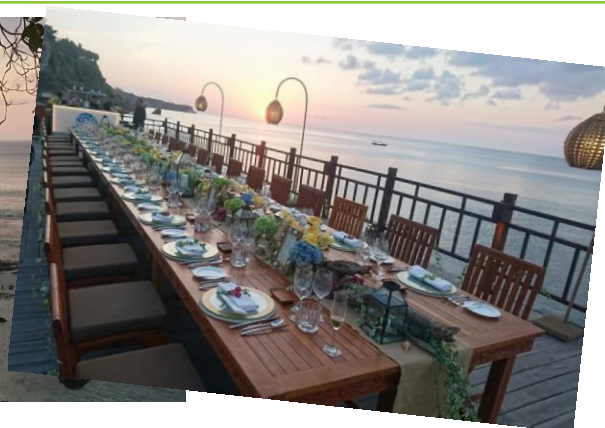
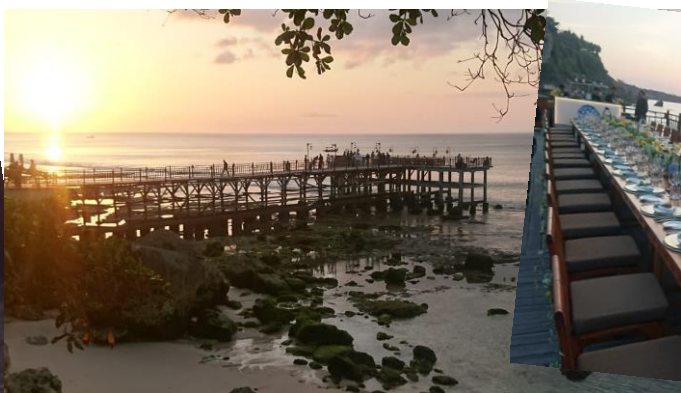
The nose sings of white peach, nectarine and grapefruit with subtle notes of honeydew melon and toasted brioche. The stone fruit power on the palate is balanced by fine acidity and elegant French oak spice giving incredible length and succulence. A beautiful year for Chardonnay in Margaret River.

Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

Red and dark fruits infused with the sweet leafiness of Wilyabrup Cabernet fill the senses. Ripe tannins and elegant French oak spice, structure and lengthen the palate. Small parcels of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot enhance the wine's complexity adding intensity, structure and juiciness.

Shiraz 2016

Juicy red fruit, violet and French oak spice jump out of the glass. The palate is flavoursome yet elegant with a cherry plum fruit leather tang coated in enviably ripe tannins. The quality of this wine reflects the refinements to our processing and the meticulous attention our red wines now receive.



Ashbrook Estate in Bali

Kingsley MCs wine events at Ayana & Viceroy Luxury Resorts

What an opportunity. It's not every day you get to spend time in five star luxury resorts, for work..... After a stroll along Ayana Resort's private beach, watching a few international visitors getting hammered in the shore break, we made our way up to The Viceroy Resort, Ubud for a staff training session and VIP wine club tasting.

This coincided with the opening of The Viceroy's new restaurant, Aperitif. Being a family owned and operated hotel and having created the business from scratch, Ashbrook shared a lot of common threads and hopefully we can continue working together.

The main focus of my visit however was the Ashbrook Wine Dinner held on Ayana Resort's ocean pier, just down from The Rock Bar. A five course degustation matched to Ashbrook wines as the sun set over Jimbaran Bay – amazing.

Many thanks to Kori at Ayana, Gery at Best Wines Bali and Andre at PT Jaddi Internasional for organizing the itinerary and events; it was a privilege working with you in such an amazing place. Ashbrook has had a strong relationship with PT Jaddi for many years and we look forward to it continuing.

In summary, Bali absolutely blew me away, friendly people, delicious cuisine and breathtaking scenery.



2018 Wine Show Medals!

Margaret River Wine Show 2018

A silver medal (93 points) at the 2018 Margaret River Wine Show for our newly released 2016 Ashbrook Estate Shiraz was very welcome news. Juicy red fruit, violet and French oak spice jump out of the glass. The palate is flavoursome yet elegant with a cherry plum fruit leather tang coated in our enviable ripe tannins. The quality of this wine reflects the refinements to our processing and the meticulous attention our red wines now receive. Our 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot and our 2017 Chardonnay all received bronze medals

Great Australian Shiraz Challenge 2018

Pitting ourselves against the best in Australia, the 2016 Ashbrook Shiraz has also earned a silver medal in this year's Great Australian Shiraz Challenge. With a record 480 entries from 69 regions, it knocked off some big names (and prices) and placed in the top four Margaret River labels. This reinforces our belief that this variety loves an open trellis and our wonderful climate.

Perth Royal Wine Show 2018

Every wine we entered into the Perth Royal Wine Show received a medal (apart from the Verdelho, which made us laugh as we think it's the same if not better than our trophy winner last year). A flurry of bronze medals for our young whites, new Shiraz and Cabernet releases confirms our consistent drinkability across the board!



IWSC 2018

Our 2016 Shiraz and 2017 Semillon were both awarded silver medals in the 2018 International Wine & Spirits Competition while the 2017 Chardonnay and 2018 Sauvignon Blanc both received bronze medals.

New look labels!



Our 2018 unwooded whites, 2017 Chardonnay and 2016 Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon have been released with our new look labels. Still very identifiable as Ashbrook, they employ a clearer font, bolder logo and more textured background. The back labels have been clarified to focus on Ashbrook's unique characteristics. Feedback so far has been very positive.

Seguin Moreau 2018 White Burgundy Tasting



Hosted by Seguin Moreau's Marc Plantagenêt (GM, Burgundy) and Mike Gadd (Margaret River winemaker) at Settler's Margaret River Tavern. A fantastic line up of White Burgundies from six different producers and four different vintages was scrutinized by a long table of local winemakers. An educational and thoroughly enjoyable experience showcasing the versatility of our beloved Chardonnay. Ashbrook has had a strong relationship with Seguin Moreau over the last 40 years which continues to this day. We are continually refining our oak program to ensure each vintage is as good as, if not better than, the last.

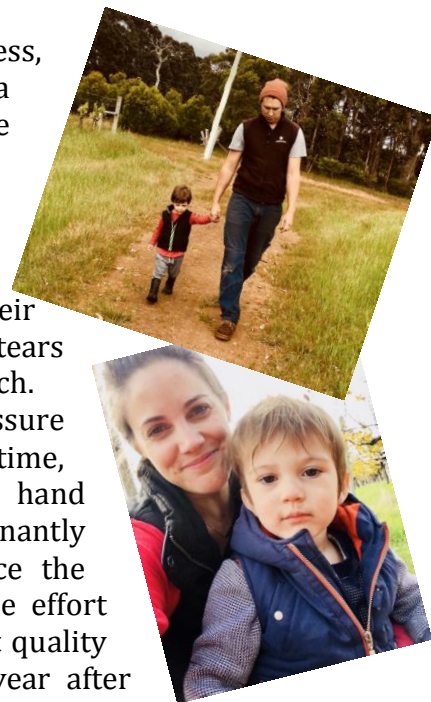
Amongst the vines.....

Five minutes with our vineyard manager, Richard Devitt



Five minutes, because he needs to get back out there! With 11 different varieties to take care of, the growing season is a very busy time for our vineyard manager, Richard Devitt. One of four children to Brian and Carol, Rich grew up on Ashbrook Estate, and is still very much at home lurking amongst the vines. He graduated from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Science, Viticulture & Oenology in 2012 and completed a vintage overseas at Merry Edwards winery in the Russian River Valley, Sonoma in 2013. Rich says the experience gave him a real appreciation for how lucky we are to grow grapes in Wilyabrup, Margaret River. No gophers here! The three time best backman for the Margaret River Hawks FC has worked at Ashbrook his entire adult life, learning from his father Brian's 40 years of vineyard experience and in 2014 he took over the reigns.

"In a family business, you go the extra mile. You're working with and for your family, respecting the dreams of those who have given their blood, sweat and tears before you", says Rich. "The biggest pressure we face is time, everything here is hand done on predominantly lyre trellising, twice the fun!". It's worth the effort though for the fruit quality that's turned out year after year and the amazing health of the entire vineyard. Rich resides on the estate with his wife Debra, young son Hudson and has a little daughter on the way. Exciting and very busy times!





Happy spring time

We sign off looking forward to the festive season, excited to get our new release white and red wines into people's mouths. Vintage 41 is not too far away now!

Cheers from everyone at Ashbrook!

