

S U M M E R 2 0 2 0

# ASHBROOK ESTATE NEWS

WILYABRUP  
MARGARET RIVER  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Welcome!

To our summer 2020 update!

If this newsletter features more pictures than words – blame vintage 2020! Our Chardonnay harvest began on February 4<sup>th</sup> (c.f. February 26<sup>th</sup> last year) and we have been flat out ever since. All our white varieties, Shiraz and some Cabernet are safely in the winery with the remaining few tonnes still hanging in the sunshine.

On top of vintage we have had several important visitors to the Estate, successful results in the Sakura Wine Awards, our cows are calving and the children started school!

Enjoy the read!

*Catherine Edwards*

*Winemaker, Ashbrook Estate*



## Vintage 2020 - fast and fantastic

Vintage 2020, a little hectic, but we can't complain. Two weeks earlier than last year, and no break in between varieties has set a fast-paced schedule. With the help of more than 60 international travellers, 80 tonnes of beautiful, hand-picked fruit have so far been delivered safely into the winery for processing. Our Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, Verdelho and Shiraz crops are a little lighter than last year (possibly due to a rain event in late November) while our Riesling, Chardonnay and Cabernet vines are yielding just above average. Everything is looking and smelling amazing - check out the photos on page four and five of this newsletter. Tipping 2020 will be a delicious vintage!

### Also in this issue:

#### The USA comes down under

Little Peacock Imports brings Skurnik Wine Distributors to Margaret River

#### Sakura Wine Awards

Gold and silver for our Chardonnay, Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc wines!

#### New SKUs in Indonesia

PT Jaddi sign up more wines after visiting Ashbrook during vintage



## USA down under

**Our New York distributors, Little Peacock Imports, brought the top performing Skurnik Wine Distributors to Ashbrook Estate and Margaret River.**

After a little healthy, in-house competition over the 2019 summer in NY, Little Peacock Imports brought their top five sales people on a trip to meet the makers around Oz! A first time trip to Australia for all was met with some great experiences including picturesque crimson sunsets over the ocean at the River Mouth, lunch in an olive grove and a few drinks with the locals in town. They even braved Redgate beach for a surf lesson (with more than a few gnarly wipeouts) however good times were had by all.



## Little Peacock Imports

## New SKUs in Indonesia

**Our Indonesian distributors, PT Jaddi, experienced an Ashbrook Estate Margaret River vintage first hand.**

When you visit a winery during vintage it's hard to get away without getting your hands, shirt, shoes (or all three) a little wine spattered, especially when you wear a light coloured shirt! Luckily for our Indonesian visitors, and some of the PT Jaddi team, they did manage to get away unscathed even after helping us hand plunge some red ferments! The group came with a mission and happily fulfilled it so watch this space Bali & Jakarta, as there will be two new Ashbrook SKU's coming your way soon! For those of you who aren't aware, you can currently enjoy a glass or two of Ashbrook Semillon, Verdelho, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon wines when you holiday in Indonesia: stay tuned to see what else is on the way...







## The 7th “SAKURA” Japan Women’s Wine Awards 2020

With great support from our Japanese wine importers, Toa Shoji Co. Ltd., Ashbrook wines have again enjoyed success at the Sakura Japan Women’s Wine Awards in 2020.

Our 2018 Chardonnay and 2017 Shiraz wines both received **gold** medals whilst our 2019 Sauvignon Blanc earned a **silver** medal.

Judging took place at Hotel Gajoen, Tokyo on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. 560 female wine industry professionals assessed 4,333 wines from 29 different countries.

The Sakura Wine Awards are judged

exclusively by female wine specialists, including sommeliers, winemakers, wine school educators, journalists, restaurant and beverage directors, retail store buyers, importers and distributors.

Overall, 256 Double Gold medals, 957 Gold medals and 836 Silver were awarded worldwide. We are very proud to say Ashbrook wines have been distributed in Japan by Toa Shoji Co. Ltd. for around two decades now.



## Razzle Dazzle

### 2020 vintage Riesling blind vertical tasting

As is our tradition, after we finish picking each grape variety at vintage (we have 11 varieties, plus a random Zinfandel vine somewhere in a Cabernet block), Brian delves down into the cellar and surfaces with a vertical tasting of Ashbrook’s (and sometimes other producer’s) wines of that variety. This year’s Riesling tasting featured the 2019, 2011, 1998 and 1984 vintages. All tasted blind, and selected to either fool us or educate us. In guessing the vintage, some of us *play the man*, others actually concentrate on the wines. Great fun, and a fantastic way to not only hone our sensory skills but also discover the effects of different vintage conditions on the vines, the winemaking and how the resultant wines age.



## Vintage 2020 in pictures





# Signing off

Still with several tonnes left to hand-pick, berry-sort and plunge, we are optimistic of rounding out vintage with big smiles on our faces and look forward to ringing the Ashbrook winery bell when that last load of red grapes comes in.

All the best for a healthy, happy and exciting 2020!

Best wishes,

The team at  
Ashbrook!



“IIIIIIII’M Batman”

Vintage gets to people sometimes....