

S P R I N G 2 0 2 0

# ASHBROOK ESTATE NEWS

WILYABRUP  
MARGARET RIVER  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## Welcome!

To our 2020 Spring edition!

Thrillingly, we finished bottling our 2020 Chardonnay last week, hopefully a valid reason for our Spring newsletter being released three weeks into summer!

It's been a very busy few months in the vineyard and winery and time has flown. Wine dinners and tastings, hay cutting, raking and rolling, working cellar door, vine tucking and lifting trellis wires, blending, filtration and bottling, red barrel topping, mail orders and everything else that goes with running a family business has swallowed the days.

We've had some fantastic wine reviews and if the *just bottled* 2020 Chardy is anything to go by, the future is looking very exciting.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Catherine Edwards  
Winemaker

## The West Australian Wine Guide 2021 by Ray Jordan

Ray Jordan has been tasting Ashbrook wines for most of our 42 vintages. He knows our style and has been instrumental in promoting the classical varieties, such as Semillon to the West Australian and wider audiences. A big thanks to Ray for his fantastic write-ups of our 2018 Estate Chardonnay (94/100), 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (93/100) and 2020 Semillon (92/100). We are also thrilled our 2020 Semillon earned a runner up position in the Best of the West Semillon category. Many thanks and cheers Ray, from the team at Ashbrook Estate.

### Also in this issue:

35<sup>th</sup> International  
Chardonnay Tasting  
@ Cullen Wines

Ashbrook Estate  
Reserve Chardonnay  
2016 features!

Fine Wine  
Wholesalers visit!

New vintage  
tasting with the  
FWW team!

Latest Huon  
Hooke – The  
Real Review

Ashbrook Estate  
Cabernet  
Sauvignon wines

Kailis Bros x  
Ashbrook Estate  
Wine Dinner

Five courses of  
fabulous food,  
wine & friends

Ashbrook Estate  
Chardonnay  
Vertical Tasting

Vintages 2010-  
2019 under the  
microscope

# 35<sup>th</sup> International Chardonnay Tasting Vintage 2016

## Ashbrook Estate Reserve Chardonnay 2016 makes the cut



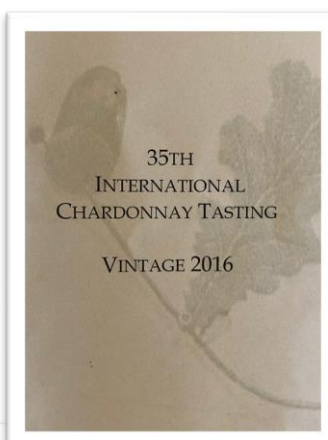
Ashbrook was honoured to be included in the 35<sup>th</sup> International Chardonnay Tasting Vintage 2016 hosted by Vanya Cullen and her team at Cullen Wines last month. The impressive line up featured 27 single vineyard wines from Wilyabrup, Margaret River, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and France.

Three flights were tasted blind by 90 attendees with brief interludes in between. Flight one was summarized by wine writer Peter Forrestal, the second by Director of Wine Emma Farrelly (State Buildings/Como/Treasury) and the final flight by wine writer Erin Larkin. On completion of all tastings and discussions, the wines were revealed.....

We were delighted to discover Peter Forrestal's (and our!) notes were complimentary for wine number eight, Ashbrook Estate 2016 Reserve Chardonnay. The event was hugely educational and it was a delight to receive such positive feedback from tasting attendees.

*"This is a rich, almost luscious wine; exuding aromas and flavours of expensive oak, poached peach and pear with a drizzle of creamed honey..." 95 POINTS Steven Creber 2021 Halliday Wine Companion*

Dr Kevin John Cullen's vision to drive the pursuit of excellence on a global scale through this tasting is alive and well - many thanks to Vanya Cullen and her team!



CHARDONNAY TASTING VINTAGE 2016	
<b>MARGARET RIVER</b> (Listed by location, North to South)	Page No.
1. Deep Woods Estate - Reserve, Margaret River, WA	4
2. Windrows Estate - Petit Lot, Margaret River, WA	5
3. Fraser Callop - Parterre, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	6
4. Moss Wood, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	7
5. Woodlands Wines - Chlooe, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	8
6. Ashbrook Estate - Reserve, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	9
7. Cullen Wines - Kevin John 'Legacy Series Fruit Day', Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	10
8. Cullen Wines - Reserve, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	11
9. Vasse Felix - Heytesbury, Margaret River, WA	12
10. Grace Farm, Wilyabrup, Margaret River, WA	13
11. Victory Point, Margaret River, WA	14
12. Cloudburst, Margaret River, WA	15
13. Xanadu - Stevens Road, Margaret River, WA	16
14. Leeuwin Estate - Art Series, Margaret River, WA	17
15. M-Henry Hobson - Hazel's Vineyard, Margaret River, WA	18
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
16. Shaw & Smith - Lenswood Vineyard, Adelaide Hills, SA	19
17. Giacomini Estate Vineyard, Victorian Alps, Beechworth, Victoria	20
18. Savaterra, Beechworth, Victoria	21
19. Goldstream Hills - Reserve, Yarra Valley, Victoria	22
20. Oakridge 864 - Single Block Release, Yarra Valley, Victoria	23
21. Stargazer, Coal River Valley, Tasmania	24
22. Tolpuddle, Coal River Valley, Tasmania	25
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	
23. Pymmid Valley - Lion's Tooth, North Canterbury, North Island, NZ	26
<b>USA</b>	
24. Lingua Franca - Sisters, Eola-Amity Hills, Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA	27
<b>FRANCE</b>	
25. Jean Desvignes Père & Fils - 1er Cru, Hommage Mort, Chablis, France	28
26. Domaine Bernard Moreau Et Fils - Chassagne Montrachet, Burgundy, France	29
27. Domaine Bernard Moreau Et Fils - Grand Cru, Chevalier Montrachet, Burgundy, France	30
<b>WINE NOTES</b>	



## Fine Wine Wholesalers visit!

It's always great to have our wholesalers visit us and in October we welcomed the West Australian team from Fine Wine Wholesalers to our door! After a tour of the vineyard we got down to business, tasting the new vintages and reinforcing our philosophy, practices and passion for all things Ashbrook. Fine Wine Wholesalers was established in 1987 by Ronnie and Ross Lawrence and has grown into one of the most successful family owned wine distribution companies in Australia. Ashbrook has been part of the Fine Wine Wholesalers portfolio for eight years now. A huge thank you to Ronnie, Ross and the fantastic FWW team for all their hard work in promoting our brand and selling our wine throughout WA in such a challenging year. We look forward very positively to 2021!



## Huon Hooke on Ashbrook 2018 Cabernets

Many thanks to Huon Hooke at The Real Review for his considered reviews of our upcoming 2018 Vintage Cabernet wines. Due for release in March 2021, these wines represent a decade of investment in and subtle refinements to our red wine processing and maturation protocols which protect and enhance the integrity of the incredible 2018 vintage in Wilyabrup, Margaret River.

### Ashbrook Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Deep red/purple colour, with a smoky, sump oil, soy sauce cluster of aromas, the palate very savoury and drying, elegantly-weighted and nicely textured, with a savoury dryness and good length but no astringency. The tannins are ample but soft and properly ripe. Very smart. 92/100

## The Real Review



### Ashbrook Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2018

Deep, bright red/purple colour, with notes of coconut and red fruits on the nose and the slightest hint of desiccated fruits. In the mouth, it's elegant yet intense, full-bodied but with an effortless flow across the palate. The wine responds to extended aeration, revealing elegant red fruit aromas intertwined with savoury oak notes, the palate full-bodied but suavely-framed and finely-textured. (Made from dry-grown vines over 40 years old. Includes small quantities of petit verdot, cabernet franc and merlot) 94/100

## Kailis Bros Leederville x Ashbrook Estate

A fantastic mix of old and new friends came together to enjoy an evening of sumptuous seafood and wine at Kailis Bros Leederville last month. Abrolhos Island Scallops and Riesling, Jurien Bay Rock Lobster and Sauvignon Blanc, Cervantes Dhufish and Reserve Chardonnay, West Australian Black Angus Beef and Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and a decadent cheese selection with Shiraz to finish. A big thanks to Fine Wine Wholesalers, the team at Kailis and all who attended for making it such a wonderful event!



## Ashbrook Estate Chardonnay Vintages 2010-2019

Following on from their Ashbrook Estate Cabernet vertical tasting in August, Allan Wilkerson and his wine club conducted a vertical tasting of our Ashbrook Estate Chardonnay, vintages 2010-2019 this November. The detailed notes for each wine, a composite of the group's comments, can be found on the following Auswine Forum page:

<http://forum.auswine.com.au/viewtopic.php?f=1&t=16743&p=163437#p163437>

In keeping with the 35<sup>th</sup> International Chardonnay Tasting at Cullen Wines in the same month, wine of the night was the 2016 Ashbrook Estate Chardonnay. We thank Allan and his wine club members for their interest in our wines and for again sharing such comprehensive reviews with the wider wine-appreciating community. We are very pleased to see the consistency of house style and ageability of the wines tell the genuine story of each Ashbrook vintage in Wilyabrup.



In 1993, Allan Wilkerson enrolled in his first ever, wine appreciation course. Tony Devitt (one of Ashbrook's founders along with his brother Brian) was one of the presenters on this course and piqued Allan's interest enough for him to visit the winery. He has been a loyal customer and collector ever since.

"Although Ashbrook Estate makes fastidiously fruit-pure unwooded whites (including a fabulous Margaret River Riesling, not an oxymoron), my tastes lean towards Chardonnay and reds, and this is where my regular buying has been for probably 20 years."





# Signing off!

As the challenges of 2020/21 keep on coming, we wish all our wine industry colleagues and friends a very merry Christmas holidays. **And remember**, if you're bored in February-March, there's a pair of picking snips here with your name on them!!

Stay safe and keep smiling!

## Cheers!

### From the team at Ashbrook Estate

