

V I N T A G E 2 0 2 1

ASHBROOK ESTATE NEWS

WILYABRUP
MARGARET RIVER
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Welcome!

To our Vintage 2021 edition!

After a nerve-racking week of lockdown, our Chardonnay harvest began on February 9th (c.f. February 4th last year). Despite 81.4mm of rainfall during the month of February (mostly 7th-10th), all our white varieties were picked in good time and in beautiful condition - stunning natural acidity and delicious varietal flavour.

Another 51.6mm of rain on March 4th delayed red grape harvesting by a week or so but we managed to stay on track to have all our grapes in the winery by Easter! Our open lyre trellising has been a blessing in this atypically wet and humid year, reminiscent of 1998 (according to Brian- and Carol-pedias).

Out of the vineyard, we have again had very successful results in the Sakura Wine Awards with one silver and two gold medals. We have had some fantastic wine reviews and the number of patrons through our cellar door has been wonderful.

Hope you enjoy the read!

Catherine Edwards

Winemaker, Ashbrook Estate



Vintage #43 at Ashbrook Estate

From putting together a picking team during border closure to 140mm unseasonal rainfall, Vintage 2021 has not been without its challenges. That said, we now have a winery full of beautiful ferments. Just under 100 tonnes of grapes were handpicked over 24 mornings in February and March at Ashbrook. It is both a huge relief and a real achievement – thank you and well done team! Vintage photos on page 4!

Also in this issue:

Sakura Wine Awards 2021

Gold, gold and silver!

Fantastic Wine Reviews

Halliday, The West Australian and The Real Review

Vintage in pictures

Inside Ashbrook vintage 2021



The 8th “SAKURA” Japan Women’s Wine Awards 2021

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 2021.

Our 2018 Shiraz and 2020 Verdelho wines both received **gold** medals whilst our 2019 Chardonnay earned a **silver** medal.

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.

Judging took place in Tokyo (February 8th) and Osaka (February 16th). 186 female wine industry professionals assessed 4,562 wines from 32 different countries.

We are very proud to say Ashbrook wines have been distributed in Japan by Toa Shoji Co. Ltd. for around two decades now.



Rizzle Fo’shizzle, Hello Verdelho, Chardy Gras.....



2021 vintage blind vertical tastings

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 resurfaces with a vertical tasting of Ashbrook’s (and sometimes other producer’s) wines of that variety. All are tasted blind, and selected to either fool us or educate us. In guessing the vintage, some *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





Erin Larkin @ Halliday Wine Companion Magazine reviews 2018 Ashbrook Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

We are thrilled that our first ever berry-sorted Cabernet vintage has been reviewed by Perth-based wine writer, judge and presenter, Erin Larkin for the Halliday Wine Companion Magazine. This wine, from the incredible 2018 vintage, Ashbrook's 40th, will be worth the wait. Our 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is due for release this month, while the Reserve wine gets to sleep in the cellar a little longer.

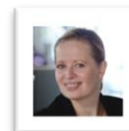


Ray Jordan @ The West Australian reviews Ashbrook Estate Rosé 2020

Only our third vintage Rosé wine, made purely from Shiraz. The grapes are hand-harvested in the cool of dawn and bunches tipped whole into our airbag press, 800kg at a time. The weight of the bunches causes some berries to split naturally and the blushing free-run juice is collected and pumped gently to tank to continue its journey. No colour adjustment is made, an authentic, visual nod to the story of each vintage. Only 100 cases made. Thanks again to Ray for the great review!



Amanda Yallop @ The Real Review on Ashbrook Estate Chardonnay



The Real Review

Many thanks to Amanda Yallop at The Real Review for this wonderful review of our newly released 2019 Chardonnay.

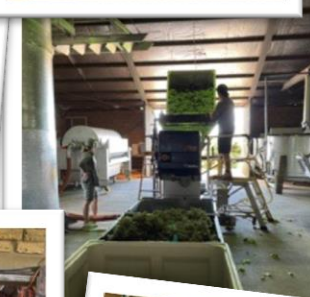
TASTING NOTES

Pale yellow colour with gold flecks. Aromatic and full-flavoured, plenty of luscious tropical fruit, almond meal and sweet spices from time spent in oak. A big example of a young chardonnay, that delivers balance between fruit purity, bracing acidity and solid structure to the wine 93/100 Drink 2020–2030
Amanda Yallop, 28 NOV 2020

<https://www.therealreview.com/wines/285840/>



Vintage 2021 in pictures



Signing off

With several tanks of reds on skins there is still much to do over the Easter "holidays". All tasks are made easier though, by the arrival of ALL the cousins! (Some of whom we haven't seen for over a year). They each have a grape marc shovel with their name on it! May the happy reunions continue. Wishing everyone a safe and happy Easter!



The team at Ashbrook!