

2014

Vintage Report



▶ ROBERT OATLEY

A story of east versus west with the challenges of the eastern states (low yields, major rain and a heatwave) balanced by some of the best growing conditions ever experienced in Western Australia.

Western Australia

A great year for Margaret River: good winter rainfall, followed by a dry and warm summer that cooled off in April. Chardonnay with terrific acidity, brightly flavoured Sauvignon Blanc, and longripened Cabernet Sauvignon of outstanding quality. A truly great year.

The Great Southern (Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker & Porongurup) experienced heavy early spring rain, followed by excellent conditions for fruit set, then dry and warm conditions through to April. Exceptional quality fruit across the board, fresh and vibrant whites, and outstanding fuller-bodied reds from Frankland in particular. Well worth watching out for.

New South Wales

On the back of 2011 & 2012 that were wet, 2013 showed some promise, but the 2014 season and resultant wines from the Central Ranges (Mudgee) are just stunning. A generally hot and dry winter and spring, an early budburst however even, mild summer temperatures provided the great season, a well below average rainfall with a hot January. Chardonnay is fabulous, Pinot Grigio outstanding, Shiraz showed great colour, fruit, spice, Merlot deep, dark and intense. We made some lovely rose too.

South Australia

A low yielding vintage of richly varietal reds with dense colours and age-worthy structure. Both the Barossa and McLaren Vale had excellent winter rains that saw the vines through a hot, dry late spring and summer drought through to a two-day heavy rainfall in February. The later than normal harvest produced standout reds, with Shiraz, Grenache and Cabernet the highlights, albeit of lower yields



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