

## THE CULLENS' ROARING 40s

The Cullens, one of Margaret River's pioneering wine families, will be celebrating Cullen Wines' 40th birthday in July. Further celebrations commemorating four decades of family-run success will take place throughout the year. Worth putting into your diaries now are the dates for this year's international chardonnay tasting (Saturday October 15) and the annual Indian Indulgence Lunch (Sunday November 20). For more information, go to cullenwines.com.au.

## HOME IN THE WOODS

Although he enjoyed success in his role as chief winemaker at Knappstein in the Clare Valley, newly appointed Deep Woods winemaker Julian Langworthy (left) jumped at the chance to return home to WA. Langworthy studied oenology at Adelaide University, but his relationship with wine stretches back much further to his childhood, when he followed his ornithologist father through vineyards, studying and managing agricultural pests. Scoop is looking forward to seeing what he does with the outstanding parcels of cabernet and chardonnay at Deep Woods.



## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

In one of the more novel ways of bringing drinkers and wine closer together, the winemaking team at Mandoon Estate in the Swan Valley has opted to become an integral part of the cellar door experience. Thus, visitors won't just taste the wines that Ryan Sudano and Mark Brown have crushed, fermented, racked and filtered to deliciousness, but they can watch them make the stuff, too. "It's all about trying to bring the public into our space without trying to change too much," says Ryan (above). "I'm a bit nervous about getting people off the beaten track but I'm sure once people come, they'll come back." 10 Harris Road, Caversham 0448 401 247.



## AMELIA PARK TAKES ON THE WORLD

Amelia Park was one of several Margaret River wineries to pick up a serious gong at the prestigious Decanter World Wine Awards in London. The winery's 2009 Cabernet Merlot was awarded Best Australian Bordeaux Varietal over £10, cleaning up against some strong competition.

The Decanter World Wine Awards is one of the most influential on the planet. Judges hail from around the world and include sommeliers, wine critics and a fifth of the world's Masters of Wine. As regional chair for Canada Tony Aspler says, "If you get an award here, you've achieved something to be really proud of."

Of 12,252 entries, a selection of WA wines – most from Margaret River – won medals. Regional trophies went to Catching Thieves 2010 Cabernet Merlot, Evans & Tate Redbrook 2008 Chardonnay, Houghton CW Ferguson Cabernet Malbec 2007 and Voyager Estate 2010 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon. Golds went to Stella Bella 2008 Shiraz, Streicker Wines 2009 Old Vine Chardonnay and Thompson Estate 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon.

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