

The Hay Shed Hill vineyard is located in the Wilyabrup sub-region of Margaret River.

Wilyabrup is extraordinary in that it has forged a world class reputation for both Cabernet based blends and Chardonnay. In a casual examination of the map it might be argued that Wilyabrup is too far north to make delicate Chardonnay, as you move north the climate becomes warmer. However it is the close proximity of the Indian Ocean and its strong prevailing Westerly and South Westerly breezes that make this sub-region substantially cooler than the latitude would suggest.

The property was known as Sussex Vale until 1989 when it was purchased by Barry and Liz Morrison who established the Hay Shed Hill brand using fruit grown on the estate. Passionate wine enthusiasts the Morrison's extended the existing plantings with emphasis on Chardonnay and the classic red Bordeaux varieties.

Morrison's Gift Chardonnay pays tribute to Liz and Barry in a wine that showcases this great variety grown on the Hay Shed Hill vineyard.



THE VINTAGE 2019

At the Hay Shed Hill vineyard, which is very close to the Indian Ocean, we experienced a warm and dry winter, which meant that the vines never deeply entered dormancy as soil temperature stayed reasonably high leading to a very early budburst in last August for Chardonnay. Spring in Wilyabrup can be quite wild with wet and windy conditions which can be devastating during the grapevine flowering period. And so it proved this season with hail, wind and heavy rain during the critical flowering period leading to the lowest fruit set for Chardonnay that I have seen in twenty five years in Margaret River and subsequent very low crop levels. The season itself was a perfect as could be hoped with Chardonnay at Hay Shed Hill harvest very early in January.

THE WINE

The Morrison's Gift Chardonnay was made from Hay Shed Hill Gin Gin clone Chardonnay. Free run juice was put straight to French oak barrels, fermentation was by native yeast. No lees stirring or any other action was taken. The fermented wine was allowed to rest on lees for 11 months prior to minimal sulphur addition and filtration into bottle.

The wine demonstrates all the characteristics of Wilyabrup and of this great site. Pale straw hues with fresh light pome fruit aromas, freshly cut white pear. The palate has substantial body and texture derived from the natural fermentation leading to a clean and very dry crisp finish. The Morrison's Gift Chardonnay harks back to an age when these vines were planted being fuller and richer in body than the rest of the Hay Shed Hill stable of Chardonnay wines.

This wine will benefit from medium term maturation of two to five years.

TECHNICAL

Growing Region: Margaret River

Alc Vol: 12.50%

Variety: Chardonnay 100%

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