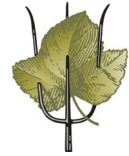


HAY SHED HILL

MARGARET RIVER

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Vintage Report | 2019



Every vintage is different bringing new challenges and teaching new lessons.

The vintage of 2019 in Margaret River was particularly challenging logistically and financially but in the most important sense, that is grape quality, it was nonetheless a good vintage.

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. This led to a very early initial budburst in last August in varieties such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. It is never good to burst that early as 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.

The flowering conditions for the other varieties, including Cabernet Sauvignon, was slightly better but still detrimental to fruit set with compromised vineyard yield to the extent that the 2019 vintage is the smallest harvest the vineyard has experienced.

The challenges remained as we entered the summer part of the growing season with several rain episodes and generally mild conditions. This made ripening slow, which is not a bad thing except that we had pressure from the two main pests in grape growing in Margaret River, birds and kangaroos. It was one of those years with no blossom in the native trees across the whole of the South West, so very little food for the birds. Similarly the dry winter severely limited the feed for kangaroos and combined with unusually big mobs the roo damage to the fruit was extensive. This was my thirteenth vintage here at Hay Shed Hill and I have never seen kangaroo numbers like this before.

The accountant would doubtless judge 2019 as a very poor year, but when you toast the vintage with a glass of Chardonnay or Cabernet Sauvignon from 2019 you will be grateful that not all decisions are made from a financial basis.

HAY SHED HILL WINES

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