



MARGARET RIVER

James Halliday Australian Wine Companion 2011



Special Value Wines

Considered to offer special value for money.

94-100 = Outstanding!

Wines of the highest quality, often with a distinguished pedigree.

90 - 93 = Highly Recommended!

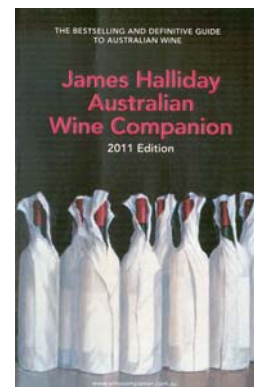
Wines of great quality, style and character, worthy of a place in any cellar.



Clairault

5 Star Winery

Outstanding winery capable of producing wines of very high quality, and did so this year. Will have at least two wines rated at 94 or higher.



Rating 95 / 100 Estate Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 [5 glass rating]

The hue, strangely, is slightly less impressive than the standard wine; however, the varietal fruit flavours are more intense, the tannins relegated to a still-important support role; excellent length and balance. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Drink 2022 \$45 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 95 / 100 Estate Margaret River Chardonnay 2008 [5 glass rating]

Bright green-gold; the complex bouquet has 100% barrel ferment and nutty inputs without suffocating the intense fruit that defines both bouquet and palate; partial mlf has added texture to the palate without blurring the acidity that drives the white peach and grapefruit flavours. Screwcap. 13% alc. Drink 2020 \$35 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 94 / 100 ★ Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc 2009 [5 glass rating]

A floral blend of passionfruit and citrus rind on the bouquet is followed by a high-powered palate that drives through to a lingering conclusion. All about the interaction of variety and region rather than winemaker tricks. Screwcap. 12.5% alc. Drink 2012 \$24 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 93 / 100 ★ Margaret River Chardonnay 2008 [4.5 glass rating]

Bright green—gold; the focus is primarily on the fruit, only 25% of the wine being barrel-fermented; the aromas and flavours are in the grapefruit, nectarine and white peach group, the length very good. Screwcap. 13% alc. Drink 2018 \$24 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 93 / 100 Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 [4.5 glass rating]

Crimson-purple; classic blackcurrant cassis aromas boosted by French oak, then a medium-bodied palate with the fruit encircled by persistent, but fine, tannins. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Drink 2017 \$26 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 93 / 100 ★ Margaret River Cabernet Merlot 2007 [4.5 glass rating]

Bright colour for age; this is all about the texture gained from the spicy/cedary tannins that run through the palate from start to finish, extending its length, and also providing an anchor for its blackcurrant and plum fruit. Screwcap. Drink 2022 \$23 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 93 / 100 Claddagh 2007 [4.5 glass rating]

Bright crimson hue; an aromatic bouquet of red and black fruits leads into lively medium-bodied palate with red fruit flavours offset by savoury tannins. Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot/Cabernet Franc, formerly labelled Reserve. Screwcap. 14.5% alc. Drink 2027 \$80 Date Tasted Jan 10

Rating 90 / 100 Margaret River Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 2009 [4.5 glass rating]

The bouquet is still developing, the tightly focused and long palate with lemon/lemongrass and mineral flavours running through to the crisp finish. Screwcap. 13% alc. Drink 2011 \$23 Date Tasted Jan 10

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