



## HISTORY

Clairault winery is named after Cape Clairault peninsular situated along the coastline of Margaret River's wine region, 3 hours south of Perth, Western Australia. The cape was named after the French Mathematician Alexis Clairault (1713-1765). Alexis was responsible for calculating the perihelion of Hailey's Comet.

Dr John Gladstone came onto the scene a couple of hundred years later proclaiming that Margaret River was perfect for the production of wine. Why? After being commissioned to research the region on behalf of the Agriculture Department of W.A. he deduced that the climate and terroir in Margaret River was the mirror image of Bordeaux, France. This was all the inspiration needed to establish Clairault Wines in 1976.

Since its inception, Clairault has been recognised as a serious player in Margaret River. The winery was the 6th property to plant grapes in the Wilyabrup sub-region of Margaret River. Situated less than 4 kilometres inland from the Indian Ocean and 120 metres above sea level, the property is 230 hectares (570 acres) in size, with an average of 300 sunshine days per year.

Now owned by the Martin family a new era has begun. Bill and Ena along with their 3 sons Shane, Conor and Brian bought the property in 1999. They immediately set about turning the winery into a "no compromise" operation.

## THE VINEYARD

The aim of Clairault is to produce exceptional wines through Estate grown grapes to ensure total quality control. The achievement of this has involved a selective vineyard expansion programme and investment into mature vine management.

Passionate about the environment and consumer health, Clairault is leading the way in the implementation of an environmentally responsible approach to vineyard management. Clairault uses The ERA (Environmentally Responsible Agriculture) Farming Company as consultants to assist in the implementation of this low intervention approach to the growing of wine grapes. The ERA Farming Company is a Western Australian based agribusiness company advising and educating farmers on growing vines through the elimination of chemical use and the introduction of biological farming. Clairault aims to establish the Estate as 100% chemically free within the next three years to ensure that only the purest of fruit is produced achieving optimum flavour.

### VINEYARD PLANTINGS

- 50 hectares (120 acres) currently under vines
- Future plans to develop a further 25 hectares (60 acres) over the next 10 years
- Total planted red varieties: 20 ha - 30% of plantings
- Total planted white varieties: 30 ha - 70% of plantings
- Predominant varieties - Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc



## THE WINE

### WINEMAKING PHILOSOPHY

Produce Inspiring Wines  
Work with Inspiring People  
Achieve Inspiring Results

No winery would be complete without a star winemaker. Will Shields joined Clairault as Chief Winemaker from Vasse Felix in 2003. Will's sole focus is the Clairault Estate and Clairault ranges. Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon are the dominant varietals and have proved themselves worthy time and again.

In 2004, Clairault's Reserve Cabernet and Clairault Chardonnay won Gold at the London International Wine Challenge. In 2005, the Estate Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 was awarded one of the TOP 100 WINES for 2005 at the Sydney International Wine Show and one of the TOP 5 Cabernet Sauvignon's produced in Australia in 2005 by Winestate. Following the success of the Cabernet Sauvignon the Clairault Chardonnay 2004 received Best in Class at the 2005 International Wine and Spirit Competition in London.

### CLAIRAULT ESTATE RANGE

The Clairault Estate wines are handcrafted and specially selected from the oldest vines, now in their 30th year of production. They are matured in individual batches using 100% French oak. Will's strict guidelines ensure that only select barrels are used in the final blend. Yields can be as low as 2 tonnes per acre from bunch thinning by hand and spur pruning. The Clairault Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and Clairault Estate Cabernet Merlot spend 24 months in oak prior to bottling. The Clairault Estate Chardonnay spends a total of 12 months in French oak with partial malolactic fermentation.

### CLAIRAULT RANGE

The Clairault range is also Estate grown fruit. The average age of the vines is 15 years and yields are as low as 2 tonnes per acre. The Clairault Sauvignon Blanc is un-oaked, the Semillon Sauvignon Blanc is 95% un-oaked and the Clairault Chardonnay is 70% un-oaked. On the whole the winemaking is kept simple for this wine range allowing the fruit quality to speak for itself. The focus is on crisp, clean and crunchy flavours giving the wines their drink now appeal. The Clairault Cabernet Sauvignon spends 18 months maturing in French oak and is a true reflection of elegant and balanced Margaret River wine. The Clairault Cabernet Merlot is matured in 1 to 4 year old French oak barriques for 18 months before blending developing a rich and dense palate with ripe tannins and a firm acidity. The fruit for our Clairault Shiraz is sourced from a grower in Wilyabrup who has been supplying Clairault for over 5 years. Pepper and savoury notes make this wine food friendly.