

VIRGINIA WILLCOCK

CHIEF WINEMAKER



VASSE FELIX

A local West Australian girl, Virginia grew up spending teenage weekends pruning and harvesting a small patch of Grenache and Shiraz vines at her parents' vineyard in Bindoon, just north of Perth.

With the fun and love of nurturing vines, and a new passion for the world of wine, Virginia went to Roseworthy College in South Australia in 1987 to study a Bachelor of Applied Science in Oenology. After doing a vintage at Lauriston/Berri Renmano in SA during her study days Virginia returned to the west to work for Capel Vale, then Redgate Winery in Margaret River.

After four vintages at Redgate, the world of wine beckoned, and Virginia took up the role as a flying winemaker with Kym Milne, working vintages through Albania, Northern Italy and Sicily whilst working vintages in the Southern Hemisphere at Cape Mentelle and Cloudy Bay in New Zealand.

In 1997 Virginia returned home to Margaret River for a position as winemaker/manager of Selwyn winery. During this time Virginia continued with vintages in the Northern Hemisphere working as a consultant for Farnese in Abruzzo, Italy. When Evans & Tate purchased Selwyn Wines mid 2000, Virginia became the Senior Winemaker and was responsible for the 2001, 2002 and 2003 vintages.

Later in 2003, Virginia became Group Winemaker of Australian Wine Holdings and was responsible for Alexandra Bridge, Hayshed Hill and the Chestnut Grove portfolios - boutique labels with fruit sourced from the premier sub-regions of Margaret River.

In October 2006 Virginia joined the Vasse Felix team as Chief Winemaker, overseeing all aspects of viticulture in the Margaret River vineyards and all winemaking procedures within the walls of Margaret River's oldest winery.

A previous judge at National Wine Shows including the Royal Perth Wine Show and the Qantas Wine show of WA, Virginia also worked as an executive member of the Margaret River Wine Industry Association for 5 years and Chaired the Margaret River Wine Show Committee from the opening show through to 2008.

Virginia's seventeen Margaret River vintages and vast international winemaking experience, coupled with a determination to craft wines of the highest calibre from Margaret River's oldest vineyard, sets Vasse Felix in very good stead to release varietally distinct and internationally exciting wines for many years to come.

