

2014 TOM CULLITY



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Nick Stock

98 Points

This is a single-vineyard wine at the pinnacle of the endeavors of Vasse Felix. Opens with red fruits in the redcurrant and red-cherry zone, showcasing fresh red and purple flowers and some deeper blue-fruit notes. The palate's the thing though: The way in which the malbec entwines itself around cabernet's linear tannins and enriches the wine without fundamentally changing its shape is genius. Supple, fresh and commanding Margaret River red. A very insightful blend of predominantly cabernet sauvignon with 16% malbec and 4% petit verdot. Best from 2022. Screw cap.

The Real Review

Huon Hooke

97/100

Huon Hooke Medium to deep red/purple colour, not that dark. The bouquet is beautifully complex and detailed, with tobacco, leafy, blueberry, violets and dusty foresty overtones. The fruit flavours are bright and intense, poised and very elegant. Blueberry and violets in abundance. Fine-grained tannins, fine structure. A lovely wine. (16% malbec, 4% petit verdot) 2019-2042

The Wine Front

Campbell Mattinson

96 points

I couldn't see the fuss at first - and then it hit me. It's a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Malbec and 4% Petit Verdot. It sees 62% new French oak and while there's oak to be tasted here, the fruit has largely soaked it all up. It's a cracking wine. It seems light at first, both in colour and flavour, but as it breathes it blossoms and once you've spent time with it then it really begins to boom. The power is all under the bonnet; there's nothing particularly flashy about it. It tastes of camphor and blackcurrant, mint, anise, black olive, bay leaves and smoky oak. Tannin is a kind of crescendo of its own, though it's not an island: there's fruit here, gloriously ripened, picked just before it went too far. Length here is quite outstanding.

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"a new step for Vasse Felix, Margaret River and for Australian cabernet"

That this is an elegant wine is the first thing to note here. The nose has hints of gravel and leafy nuances -- a textbook regional expression. It's really seductive, and there's a fusion of bright and vibrant redcurrants, boysenberries and red cherries together with cassis and blue plums as well as mulberries. Some fresh, violet-like florals and freshly cut herbs also come into play along with pomegranate and deliciously fresh and cedary oak that's well played in behind vineyard-focused characters. The richer malbec fruits are clear here, and at 20% of the blend, it has a role to play, both in terms of the upfront plushness and back palate depth. The old vines are also working some

magic within the layers of structure and length here. The palate's immaculate and supple, the tannins are fluid, long and polished, and there's detail here as well as depth, before things culminate in an incredibly fresh finish. Tannins are superbly elegant and truly refined. This is a wine of finesse and fine detail. Beautifully grown, perfectly captured and astutely crafted. This is everything a great wine should be and a new step for Vasse Felix, Margaret River and for Australian cabernet. (2013 v)

Australian Financial Review - Max Allen

Max Allen

"..will age exquisitely well."

This blend of Cabernet, Malbec and Petit Verdot, to be released in May, is quite different in style from the Cape Mentelle: more perfumed (succulent herbs, hedgerow blackberries), more elegant, more savoury, but it will also age exquisitely well.

The West Australian - Ray Jordan

Ray Jordan

99 points

Wow this takes Margaret River to another level. There is a purity of fruit and a vibrancy evident here. Power and elegance unlike anything seen before in the region. Oak and fruit with grainy tannins in perfect harmony creating an almost satiny mouth feel. Perfumed with notes of cedar and red berry and violet. A raw edge with graphite and seaweed complexity. The chalky tannins define the palate, which is focused and sustained. Best drinking: Now until 2040

Lamonts Wine Store - John Jens

John Jens

19.3 points

Full, complex and long. Depth and majestic power - persistent drying, lingering tannins. This has an extra dimension in fruit weight, texture and length to the now wonderful (19.1 points) 2013 vintage. Restrained and classic style of enormous power and length. Effortlessly long fruit and with a wonderful lingering aftertaste.

Erin Larkin

Erin Larkin

99 points

The red fruits shine here. This is incredible. Raspberry, pomegranate, red apple skins, pink peppercorns, hints of strawberry, blackcurrant, mulberry, seaweed/nori (an injection of iodine, beetroot). The tannins are polished, like whipped egg white: chewy and sumptuous. The flavours extend through the palate and into the length. Very very long. I can write long after it is gone. Alive. Energy. Doesn't want to finish, it doesn't want to let go. It lingers. Great depth of flavour. Effortlessly long. In fact... it needs the extra linger time just to make sure its covered all of its flavours and textures. Super fine, powerful, long, structured and delicate. Perfect. If this represents where Margaret River has come to, then we are indeed in a magnificent place. To put this into perspective: Margaret River vintage charts are pretty bland - the range is very good to exceptional. There are 'typical' years, 'plush' years, 'leaner' years, 'warmer' years... but they're all good. They all age prodigiously. The 86's are still alive and kicking: not bad for a wine region which at the time, was trailblazing towards a brave new wine world. In 2017, Margaret River celebrated its 50th year, and along with it, Vasse Felix, it's 50th vintage. 2018 sees the release of the 20 Perhaps one of the best cabernets to come out of Australia. Perfect. 99 points