

PASSEL ESTATE

MARGARET RIVER

COMPANY PROFILE

Passel Estate is situated in the heart of the world-renowned Margaret River wine region. Its gentle sloping vineyards are surrounded by spectacular granite outcrop and pristine bushland comprising jarrah, red gum, peppermint and ancient grass trees. Sea breezes from the Indian Ocean nearby provide calming relief in the summer months. This special location not only produces some of the region's finest wine grapes, but has also been chosen to provide sanctuary to the endangered Western Ringtail Possum.

Our Story

Owners Wendy and Barry Stimpson originate from England and South Africa respectively. Over numerous visits to Margaret River they fell in love with the region's pristine natural environment and its world class wines. They made Margaret River their home in 2005, and in 2011 they found the picturesque vineyard and natural bushland areas that now comprise Passel Estate.

Margaret River

The Margaret River wine region is located in the remote south west corner of Australia. It stretches 100km from north to south, surrounded by ocean on three sides. The maritime influence on premium viticulture within the region is undeniable; grapes benefit from ample sunlight hours during ripening, whilst the cooling sea breezes moderate temperature. With a reliable maritime-based Mediterranean climate and ancient gravel soils, Margaret River is blessed with ideal conditions for fine wine production. Its wines are known for their fruit purity, elegance, structure and consistency. Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay are the region's flagship varieties.

Vineyard & Conservation

Passel Estate's vineyard on Ellen Brook Road enjoys a central location within the Margaret River wine region, just off the famous Caves Road tourist route. The vineyard was first planted in 1994, comprising 1.5ha each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. Additional plantings of Shiraz (1.1ha) and Chardonnay (2.6ha) were later established. The vineyard is gently sloping, with vines planted on original root stocks in ironstone-based gravel loams. Rows are oriented north-south and a VSP (Vertical Shoot Positioning) trellis system is used throughout.

Experienced Viticulturalist, Andy Ferreira, manages the vineyard year-round. A combination of cane pruning (Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc) and spur pruning (Shiraz and Chardonnay) is employed. Shoot thinning, leaf removal and bunch thinning are used to ensure even ripening and reduce cropping to optimum quality yields, as well as expose fruit to morning sunlight and encourage air flow. Andy is rigorous in his adoption of sustainable practices throughout the vineyard, from water management through to soil biodiversity and pest management. Mid-row cropping is one such practice that is used effectively to address these areas.





Vineyard & Conservation (CONTINUED)

Approximately 10ha of native bushland on the property is reserved for conservation. With the vineyard so close to native bush, it is necessary to net the vines (after veraison and through to harvest) so as to protect fruit from bird damage, as well as hungry kangaroos.

The name Passel Estate pays tribute to a family (or *Passel*) of endangered Western Ringtail Possums that was relocated to the property's bushland sanctuary after being badly burned in the 2011 Margaret River bushfires. The owners continue to support and provide sanctuary to endangered native species and have introduced a guided Nature & Wine Walk through the pristine bushland reserve adjacent to the Tasting Room.

Winemaking

Highly awarded Winemaker, Bruce Dukes, applies the art and science of winemaking in equal measure when crafting the Passel Estate range. His approach to winemaking has been shaped by an impressive formal education, based in Agricultural Science and Viticulture & Enology, as well as 25+ years of applied industry experience working with iconic producers in Napa Valley and Margaret River. The philosophy behind Passel Estate wines is driven by an uncompromising commitment to quality. The wines are a unique expression of the special place that is Passel Estate, defined by their perfumed fruit character, structure and balance. Passel Estate wines are a rare discovery; volumes made are small, given the quality-driven low yields and single vineyard focus.

Our Wines

The Passel Estate range of wines comprises the following, in small quantities:

- Passel Estate Cabernet Sauvignon
- Passel Estate Shiraz
- Passel Estate Chardonnay
- Passel Estate Sauvignon Blanc

Passel Estate's range includes the very limited release Lot 71 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon and Lot 71 Reserve Syrah, made from select parcels of hand harvested fruit, with extended barrel maturation in the finest French oak.

Tasting Room

The contemporary Tasting Room features floor to ceiling glass on three sides so that visitors are immediately connected with the surrounding vines and bushland conservation sanctuary. Stone walls and stunning timbers are used throughout, sourced from the estate wherever possible. The building is beautifully appointed and sets the scene for a unique, high end and wholly authentic wine tasting experience.

Awarded 5-star winery status by James Halliday, included in The Real Review Top Wineries of Australia and winner of Best Tasting Experience and Best Small Cellar Door in Margaret River by Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine.

Visitors have a choice of wine tasting experiences, a portion of the proceeds from which go directly towards further conservation efforts at Passel Estate.