



One of the many stunning sunsets over the forest at Brash Vineyard

## Brash Vineyard member news

Welcome to the first print edition of our newsletter. While email and associated technology are the 'way to go', we still believe in some of the traditional practices like having a newsletter you can read and digest when you want to. But we promise only twice a year, with a vintage update in May-June and new release update in November-December. We want the newsletters to be informative and provide you updates on current vintages as well as the wine we have in the winery.

### THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

First and most importantly we want to thank each and every one of our members for signing up to our en primeur offer over the past twelve months. We have decided to cap the number of members to 75 people and at this stage we only have ten places left. If you have a friend who would like to join, we will happily welcome them into the group and keep it all 'in the family'. Your support of Brash Vineyard is greatly valued by us all and we look forward to providing you with high quality, single vineyard wines for a long time to come.

### 2014 VINTAGE

2014 is a continuation of the strong vintages from Margaret River. Unlike many of our vineyard friends in the east who suffered the vagaries of nature in 2014, Mother Nature again smiled on Margaret River and delivered a superb season. That is not to say we didn't have our share of issues in the vineyard, but the end result was one that delivered first class fruit to the winery and our contract buyers.

The season began well—except for a spring storm that blew strongly from the west for three days. While we have a very well protected vineyard, the end result of this was that our block two cabernet took a solid hit to the just-developed buds. The result was a 40% reduction in yield.

We then entered into one of the driest summers on record, with virtually no rainfall of any significance. Dry days of moderate temperatures combined with cool nights created the perfect growing environment. There are many in Margaret River calling the white vintage 'the best in memory', but proof of the pudding is in the eating as we wait now for the results from the winery.

It was expected the red harvest would arrive hot on the heels of the whites and everything would be wrapped up by the end of March!

However Mother Nature again stepped in with the first serious rain of the year and we received several inches of rain in a short period of time. No fruit damage, but a natural event that just stopped the vines in their tracks; followed by a drawn-out period of several weeks where the final ripening of the fruit occurred very slowly. Our final cabernet block was harvested in mid-April. Quality was excellent; however our cabernet yields were well down.

The positive was the shiraz yields, which have created what we hope is a pleasant surprise for our wine club members—see further on in the newsletter.

All in all a superb vintage with a frustrating but happy ending. We are looking forward to great results coming from the winery in the next two years and then into your cellars.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A regular section of our newsletter where we will highlight an aspect of the vineyard and winemaking journey that could help you understand more about what happens before you drink that glass of wine and hopefully explain why the Brash wine you select is so pleasing to your palate.

## SINGLE VINEYARD WINES

Increasingly you will find wines labelled as 'single vineyard'. So what is so special about this 'single vineyard' stuff? If you buy a wine from a large wine producer it is more than likely going to come from a collection of vineyard sites either from within one region or across multiple regions. These wines are made in very large volumes and as such the winemaker has to select fruit from multiple sources simply to be able to make the volume required. In some cases we are talking 100 000+ cases of wine, which is a lot of fruit. And the results can be excellent. Let's face it, Penfolds makes some very tidy wines that we all enjoy—a lot.

Single vineyard wines are wines that come from a single vineyard and often a single site within that vineyard. They represent an expression of that place, at that time, under the climatic conditions that were prevailing in that vintage, using the viticulture practices decided by the owners. They will always be limited in numbers because of the size of any one site. We like to think they are 'special' because of their uniqueness. They can't be replicated, purely because there is no other identical site, receiving the same treatment and the same conditions.

Wines available in Australia will fit into one of the following categories:

**Multi-regional:** wines from multiple regions, multiple vineyards, multiple sites.

**Regional:** wines from a single region, multiple vineyards, multiple sites

**Sub-regional:** wines from a sub-region, multiple vineyards, multiple sites

**Single vineyard:** wines from one vineyard, often a single site within that vineyard

At Brash, we fall into the last category. We are trying our hardest to produce unique wines that showcase the quality of the site within the vineyard, the soil profiles and climatic influences that when combined create a wine that expresses a special place at a special time. That is not to say that wineries in the other categories don't produce great wine—rather, their approach is different to ours and often driven by different commercial realities.



## OUR 2014 WINES

Our plan for 2014 was to release our second cabernet sauvignon and that was it! Well plans don't always work out do they? The 2013 sauvignon blanc which was essentially a trial wine has now become a staple part of our vintage. Winning the trophy for Best Sauvignon Blanc at the Sydney Royal Show simply gives us no choice but to continue making this wine. And now the surprise.

Our shiraz block is contracted to Devil's Lair. We had anticipated a crop of approximately 18 tonnes of fruit. When we had filled all the bins for Devil's Lair, we still had several rows to harvest. Quandary! Find another buyer, which wasn't too hard to do. Or, make our own Brash Vineyard shiraz! A quick chat with Bruce Dukes, our winemaker and a rushed trip to taste the fruit—and we now have a 2014 shiraz in barrel—and looking very good.

## WINES IN THE WINERY

2013 Cabernet Sauvignon

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon

2014 Shiraz

2014 Sauvignon Blanc

2014 Cabernet Sauvignon on the vine





2014 Cabernet Sauvignon in barrel

### 2013 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Yes, we are getting a little impatient. We want to release our first red wine under the Brash label and as every month ticks by, that time gets closer. We looked at the wine in barrel last month and yes, it is all there; the colour is fantastic, the fruit is simply amazing and tannins are developing a smooth and delicate mouth feel. At this stage we plan to bottle this wine in August this year. It will then take a further six months to get over the 'bottle shock' and settle into a lovely wine. Which brings us very close to delivery date to our wine club members. We will give you more drinking and cellaring information at that stage.

### 2014 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

The last fruit harvested this year. We sat and sat, waiting for the right flavours to develop and finally Bruce made the call to harvest. The wine is now in barrel. We rate this vintage very highly and are expecting something quite special to evolve over the coming 18 months. This is the second wine in your en primeur offering and we are confident we will deliver a fine wine of elegance and style.

### 2014 SHIRAZ

Margaret River shiraz is a wine that simply 'flies under the radar'. If you listen to well-known wine critic John Jens he will give you the statistics that show Margaret River shiraz sits very highly on the gold medal list throughout Australia and also very comfortably against the great shiraz regions of Barossa and McLaren Vale. Margaret River shiraz is a different wine from those regions and often shows higher levels of elegance with lifted white pepper and dark fruit characteristics. This is our first shiraz, so we have to wait and see. What we do know is that in previous years our fruit buyers have rated our shiraz fruit as equal to or better than any other fruit we grow. So we are very excited about this new release. Like all our wines, we are aiming at a limited release of 250 cases.

*We will keep you up to date.*

### 2014 SAUVIGNON BLANC

Now the pressure is on. One wine (2013), one trophy—beyond our wildest dreams; and the response just continues. An order form is attached for you to obtain some of the last 2013 available.

Back to that pressure! The fruit we grew in 2014 and delivered to the winery was, as some say, 'the best vintage in living memory'. So that pressure is now on the guys at Naturaliste Vintners. But we have every confidence in Bruce Dukes and his team to deliver. We have purchased exactly the same oak barrels and followed exactly the same winemaking processes as we did in 2013.

Last week we tasted the wine while it sat in tank on lees. And it is showing us everything it needs to. So we do have high expectations for another great vintage which will be available in late November this year.



### 2013 SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sixty-five cases left. That's right, we have gone through 180 cases in the past five months by word of mouth sales (and we have sipped a couple ourselves as well!!). At this stage we anticipate selling out in the next two months and there will then be a break before the 2014 is on the market later this year. So, now is the time to top up on your requirements.

Autumn has arrived



## WINES FOR SALE

All this excitement and still only one wine available for sale. This is frustrating. But very exciting as well.

The 2013 Sauvignon Blanc sweeps all things ahead of it. We continue to get rave reviews from all we show the wine to.

The plan is to have our label available at just a few independent liquor outlets in major Australian cities. But that won't worry our members who will always be offered great prices on all of our wines.

The Brash label is now available at La Vigna Mt Lawley, Devine Cellars Inglewood, Gangemi's West Perth, Riverside Restaurant, and in Sydney at Northbridge Cellars.

## OUR WINE MAKER

Bruce Dukes is the founding Director and Senior Winemaker for Naturaliste Vintners. He has 23 years of valuable postgraduate industry experience, shared between iconic producers in the Napa Valley and Pierro Margaret River. He has also assisted in the establishment of several 'five star' producers in the Margaret River area.

His approach to grape growing and winemaking has been shaped by a wide range of high quality industry experience. His deep applied understanding of viticulture, and how viticulture parameters affect wine quality, result in very high quality wines and meaningful feedback to vignerons.



Bruce sampling red wine

Naturaliste Vintners was awarded the 'Best Winemaking Facility in Western Australia' by the Wine Industry Association of WA.

Bruce currently prefers to focus on hands-on winemaking and viticultural consulting.

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### BRASH VINEYARD REGISTERED MEMBER ORDER FORM ONLY

#### 2013 Sauvignon Blanc

Case (12 bottles) \$150.00  
(Normal retail price \$275.00)

Quantity

Total \$

Postage

\$15.00

TOTAL COST \$

#### PAYMENT

Cash

EFT

Credit card

Visa

Mastercard

#### EFT DETAILS

Account Name: Brash Vineyard

BSB: 086-131

Account: 42406805

Name on card

Card number

Expiry

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_



You can now find us on Facebook too!  
[facebook.com/brashvineyard](https://facebook.com/brashvineyard)

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