

# ROCKFIELD

ESTATE VINEYARD

MARGARET RIVER

Summer 2006

## FROM THE VERANDAH...

After a cold wet spring so far summer has not been much different. It seems hard to believe that Christmas is only a few weeks away and that 2005 has almost gone. The vines have come on a pace in spite of the weather and shoots are coloured mid to pale green giving a beautiful vista from the cellar door. The roses and lavender in the cellar door garden are also in full bloom and the old oak at our entrance is magnificent. Another highly competitive year in the wine industry emphasizes that boutique wines are worth seeking out in this increasingly global environment, and give the consumer wine with personality to match their own. Have a safe and happy Christmas.

"Life is too short to drink bad wine"

Dr Andrew Gaman



Above: Rockfield Vines in late Spring 2005

## YOUR SAY

Here are the latest highlights from our visitors' book at the cellar door.

*"Loved it. Fantastic first experience"*

Joelene & Jamie, U.K & Tasmania

*"You should be proud. Place looks magical"*

Ryan, Rebecca, Jessica & Emily

*"Mummy thinks it is good wine"*

Beth, Hockley Heath, U.K

*"Enjoyed the wines, especially the Semillon and Rosa. Your passion for wine is inspirational. Thank you."*

James, Paige, Tim and Pamela, Bunbury, W.A

*"Bloody good wine!"*

W. Reilly, Capel, W.A

## ROCKFIELD REVIEW

### Ray Jordan's Guide to Wine 2005/06

*"During the past few years Rockfield has won more than 50 medals at wine shows – a pretty fine effort for such a young producer. In the next few years I expect to see even better things from these guys".*

### 2005 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc 88/100

*"Really pretty and precise aromas on the nose. Herbaceous but with some light nettle and gooseberry. There's a little herbal spice in there as well. Beautiful palate with exquisite mouth feel and a penetrating long finish. Retains a delicacy".*

### 2005 Semillon 89/100

*"A combination of the freshness and life of semillon, and the associated richness of barrel fermentation, has created a deliciously enticing little wine. Beaut mix of melon and cashew with some lifted grassy citrus. The palate is long and fresh and bracingly dry".*

### 2003 Cabernet Merlot 88/100

*"A more complete wine than the classy '02. Stacks of ripe fleshy merlot fills out the palate while the firmer cabernet adds structure and length. Lifted cedar complements the perfumed bouquet. Very attractive".*

### 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 91/100

*"There's real power and intensity in this very muscular and linear cabernet. The palate is still very firm and tight with strong tannins and ample oak controlling the deep lingering fruit. Will evolve into an elegant wine of great style. Medium to longer-term cellaring without any problems".*

## THE VINES...

Spring has been a challenging one with the higher rainfall that we have experienced. Our spraying windows have been very tight. On a more positive note the cooler weather has been much more enjoyable to do all of our vineyard jobs. We have completed a shoot thin through all of our vineyard blocks this spring to even up growth and cropping. The finished result is looking excellent. The team is busy lifting the foliage wires and commencing preliminary trimming operations. We will soon be starting our leaf plucking pass through the vineyard. As always the run to Christmas will be as busy as ever. Everything is slotting into place nicely and I am expecting some good results as the remainder of the season plays out.

*Alex Gaman – Viticulturalist*

## THE WINES ...

Blending sounds like fun doesn't it! But there's more to it than meets the eye. Yes, this is the sinister side of winemaking where the wines, beakers and measuring cups come out to play. Deliberation and arguments consume the winemaking team as we all go in to bat for our children (wines), hoping that our favourite blend won't be orphaned, or worse! If you can't already tell I'm passionate about this time of the year. Final blending of our reds occurs at this time of year approximately 2 months before bottling. Sexy little beasts emerge and yes the wines are good too! Rockfield reds from the 2004 vintage are looking fantastic. Nice rich, deep colours, spice, sweet fruits and lashings of class. Starting at the top:

**The 2004 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon** is as always deep, dark and brooding. Spicy oak and more power than the vineyard tractor encapsulated in a medium to heavy structured wine with classic Margaret River Cabernet elegance;

**2004 Cabernet Merlot** – Spiced plums with mineral hints hug sweet black and briary fruits;

**2004 Shiraz** – Like I've said in previous reports 04 was a fantastic year for Shiraz grapes. This wine does not disappoint the vintage. A style variation from previous vintages, this wine shows deeper, dark spiced plums and granite with sweet briary fruits lingering on to the very end.

**2005 Vintage Notes:** Wow, this was a surprise. Not everyone fared well in the 05 vintage. We did. To be continued...

**Winery Addition:** We are delighted to welcome new consultant winemaker John Durham to the winemaking team at Rockfield Estate. John joins us after 21 years at the helm of Cape Mentelle.

*Andrew Gaman – Winemaker*

## CHRISTMAS WINE SPECIALS

Rockfield wine members are entitled to **\$24 off** the price of any wine dozens (offer valid until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006)

Or choose from our other holiday specials below:  
(offers valid until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006)

**Holiday Celebration Mixed Case**      **\$180 per case\***  
\*(\$38 saving off normal retail price)

2 x 2003 Cabernet Merlot  
2 x 2003 Shiraz  
2 x 2005 Rosa  
3 x 2005 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc  
3 x 2005 Unwooded Chardonnay

**Christmas Indulgence Mixed Case**      **\$295 per case\***  
\*(\$50 saving off normal retail price)

3 x 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon  
3 x 2003 Cabernet Merlot  
2 x 2003 Reserve Chardonnay  
3 x 2005 Semillon  
1 x 2002 Reserve Sparkling Chardonnay

**Remember that members also receive free freight to anywhere in Australia for 1 or more case purchases!**

## WINE IN FOCUS

### PREMIUM CHARDONNAY CLUB

Rockfield Estate has consistently produced quality Chardonnay wines that display elegance, depth and character.

#### 2001 Chardonnay

**GOLD MEDAL** 2005 Margaret River Wine Show

**4 Cup Rating – 85/100**

James Halliday's 2003/04 Australian Wine Companion

#### 2002 Chardonnay

★★★★

Winestate Magazine

**4 Cup Rating – 85/100**

Ray Jordan's Guide to Wine 2003/04

#### 2003 Reserve Chardonnay

**4 1/2 Cup Rating – 92/100**

James Halliday's 2004/05 Australian Wine Companion  
"A complex amalgam of barrel ferment and malolactic inputs to a creamy palate with nice melon fruit; good balance and length; stylish regional example. Drink 2011".

**Silver Medal and Top 6 pick (MR South)**

Scoop Magazine (Autumn 2005)

"This wine comes from a stable that is receiving serious wine show circuit recognition. Fastidious fruit selection, expert barrel handling and an uncompromising commitment to quality have produced a great retro-style Chardonnay. No doubt the premium oak-feel did not come cheaply. Beautiful toasty developed characters, balanced by subtle malo, classic melons and tropical fruit introduce this new member of the premium Chardonnay club"

#### 2002 Unwooded Chardonnay

**4 1/2 Cup Rating – 85/100**

James Halliday 2003/04

#### 2003 Unwooded Chardonnay

★★★★

Winestate Magazine

**Silver Medal**

2003 NSW Cool Climate Wine Show

## **CURRENT TASTING NOTES**

**2005 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc:** This vibrant wine shows gooseberry, lime and pear aromas with passion fruit, honey melon and guava. There is a long grapefruit palate and finish and complexity is enhanced by partial barrel fermentation.

**2005 Unwooded Chardonnay:** A fresh cool climate style showing citrus, rock melon and white peach aromas with nectarines and cream on the palate.

**2002 Chardonnay:** Lifted varietal characters of rock melon, stone fruit and citrus are enriched by a creamy palate and barrel fermentation.

**2005 Semillon:** A fragrant cool climate style with barrel fermentation characters. There are citrus, gooseberry and vanilla aromas with grapefruit and honey melon on the palate. This wine may be drunk now or cellared for several years.

**2004 Rosa:** A refreshing rose-style wine showing strawberry, cherry, rose and violet aromas with strawberry and Turkish Delight carrying through to the palate. It is ideal as an aperitif and for summer picnics.

**2003 Autumn Harvest Semillon:** This delicately sweet and aromatic wine has honeysuckle and banana passion fruit aromas with tropical fruit and orange peel on the palate.

**2003 Shiraz:** A rich spicy cool climate style with well-integrated oak. There are plum, cassis and black cherry aromas plus pepper and mixed spice on the palate. It is an ideal wine for a wide range of dishes and occasions.

**2002 Cabernet Merlot:** This single vineyard Margaret River blend shows mulberry, blackcurrant and plum aromas plus violet and sweet cedary oak. There are fine soft tannins with cassis, cinnamon, mint chocolate and splashes of red cherry on the palate complimented by a long persisting finish.

**2002 Reserve Sparkling Chardonnay:** An elegant blanc de blanc style showing extended barrel and bottle fermentation characters.

**2003 Reserve Chardonnay:** A complex amalgam of barrel ferment and malolactic inputs to a creamy palate with nice melon, grapefruit and apricot. Very good balance and length. A stylish regional Margaret River Chardonnay.

For mail order of Rockfield Estate wines please print and complete the order form on the next page and either mail or fax on 08 9757 5006. Members receive FREE FREIGHT to anywhere in Australia with 1 or more case purchases. Not a member? Visit [www.rockfield.com.au](http://www.rockfield.com.au) and follow the links to join.

