

Welcome...

To our first Rockfield Estate newsletter! We hope that you will enjoy reading our news. 2004 was a very successful year for Rockfield in all facets, and we are set for another great year in 2005.

FROM THE VERANDAH...

Summer is in full swing! Visitors still need to pack a jumper or jacket though for those cooler days and nights. Our "office" view is of vines with a full canopy and rolling hills. Looking back, 2004 brought a great vintage, our new "brushstroke" label and new distributors in the east. We welcome Aria Wine Company who now distributes Rockfield wines in Qld, New South Wales and ACT.

In April 2004 we were also blessed with the birth of our fourth grandchild, Amy, another "vintage" baby and 'vignette'!

The enjoyment of wine with food and friends continues to receive scientific support in helping to fight against many degenerative diseases. This is a favourite quote of mine from Louis Pasteur, often regarded as the "father" of the wine and beer industry – *"Wine is one of the most healthy and healthful of drinks"*.

We trust you all had a safe, happy and relaxing festive season, and that 2005 will be a good year for you. See you at the cellar door...

Dr Andrew Gaman

2004 SEMILLON WINS GOLD & TROPHY!

The 2004 Semillon has just won a Gold Medal and Trophy for best Semillon at the **2004 Margaret River Wine Show!** The judges wrote - *"One outstanding wine, a unanimous gold. A perfect example of Margaret River Semillon"*. This glorious wine has also received the following recent recognition:

*****5 Star Rating

Winestate Magazine (Mar/Apr 2005).

Amberley's 2005 "Seafood & Semillon" - February 5-6, Chosen as one of Australia's Top 10 Semillon and Semillon blends. We had a great weekend!



3rd from Left: Winemaker, Andrew Gaman Jnr with Trophy at the Award dinner.

YOUR SAY...

We always enjoy reading back on the comments left in our visitor's book at the cellar door. Here are some highlights from 2004:

"Worth the flying for!"

The Finch Family – England via New York, Sydney, Perth (then Port Douglas, LA, & Home!!!)

"A great find"

"Amazing wine & friendly personalized service. We will be sure to recommend"

"Excellent wine, coffee, and view!"

"Gorgeous!"

"Fan-bloody-tastic, Su-bloody-perb; Great Host – Great Wine – Great Day! Thank you"

THE VINES...

The vineyard team is currently hard at work preparing for vintage 2005. The vines have been hedged and leaf plucked to allow ideal amounts of sunlight to reach the grapes for optimal ripening. Netting is now underway to protect from bird damage.

On average our vintage commences in late February, with a hand pick of Chardonnay fruit for our Reserve Sparkling Chardonnay, with the bulk of fruit being harvested throughout March. We predict that the Rockfield 2005 vintage, weather permitting, should result in our best quality fruit to date.

Alex Gaman – Viticulturalist

THE WINES ...

The success with our 2003 Reserve Chardonnay (92/100 James Halliday 2005) showcases the quality of the 2003 vintage. We are excited by the coming releases of the reds: our 2003 Shiraz and 2003 Cabernet Merlot in early to mid 2005, as well as the much-anticipated release of our 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon in mid to late 2005.

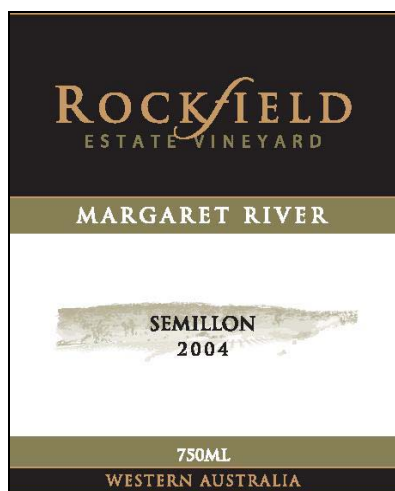
The 2004 vintage raised the bar even higher and has resulted in whites of our best standing to date. Our 2004 Reserve Chardonnay will be released in late 2005. The 2004 vintage reds are showing beautiful structure and finesse – and will be worth the wait.

With such quality and success from our 2003 and 2004 vintages, the 2005 vintage is set to take us yet further and become our best vintage to date.

Andrew Gaman – Winemaker

OUR NEW LABEL!

Our wine label has recently changed. The new brushstroke features a watermarked photograph of our vines, adding a more personal touch. We have had a great response to the change.



Above: Alex Gaman, Viticulturalist, tending the Rockfield vines in preparation for vintage 2005

Everyone Loves A Wedding!

In the midst of 2005 vintage preparation, Rockfield Estate hosted its first wedding & reception on Saturday, 15th January. The day was glorious, the vineyard looked beautiful, and the bride and groom were very much in love. What more could we ask for than love, good food and good wine with family and friends. We wish Karina and Warren happiness in their future together.



Show Judging

Whilst busy crafting wines for Rockfield Estate, as well as five other local vineyards, Andrew Gaman Jnr was invited as an Associate Judge for the 2004 Margaret River Wine Show, and acted in a stewarding role at the 2004 MT Barker Wine Show. We are proud of all his achievements.



Bottom (3rd from left): Andrew as Associate Judge with the rest of the international judging panel for the 2004 Margaret River Wine Show.

2004 IN REVIEW

2004 was an eventful year for our wines, in terms of critical acclaim. Below are some of the highlights not yet mentioned:

James Halliday's 2005 Wine Companion – ** 4 Star Vineyard/Winery Rating.**

Ray Jordan's 2005 Guide to Wine – *“The wines are really starting to make a mark and over the next few years you'll see some very impressive things from these guys”.*

Winestate Magazine (Mar/Apr 05):

***** **5 Star** – 2004 Semillon, 2001 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, 2002 Cabernet Merlot

**** **4 Star** – 2004 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, 2002 Shiraz

*** **3 Star** – 2004 Rosa (the only Rose tasted to receive a 'Recommended' rating)

Scoop Magazine Top 12 WA Reds – 2001 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (read more about this wine below)

Gold Medal, Rutherglen Wine Show, VIC – 2004 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc

For a complete overview of our current awards and reviews please visit our website at www.rockfield.com.au

WINE IN FOCUS

2001 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

This wine has received some outstanding reviews and awards.

★★★★★

Winestate Magazine (Mar/Apr 2005)

5 Cups, 94 points – James Halliday 2005

“Powerful, blackcurrant and dark chocolate fruit supported by ample, ripe tannins. Very good mouthfeel and balance; long finish.”

Included in James Halliday's 'Best of the Best of Australian wine 2005'.

90 points – Ray Jordan 2004/05

“Deep dark colours. Beautifully seductive and fragrant aromas...The palate shows a real intensity with deep dark and powerful fruit harnessed with fine firm tannins, crisp acid and fine-grained oak. Knits the whole thing together beautifully”.

Top 12 WA reds – Scoop Magazine

(Summer 2004/05)

“Very big, full, soft, sweet – but well structured...opulent brambly fruit on the palate...richness and intensity...both cedary and leafy on the nose with attractive earthy/cassis fruit on the palate.”

Silver Medals – 2004 Margaret River Wine Show, 2004 Mt Barker Wine Show, 2003 NSW Cool Climate Wine Show

For mail order of Rockfield Estate wines please print and complete the order form on the reverse of this page. Members remember your \$30 discount voucher, and FREE FREIGHT to anywhere in Australia with 2 or more case purchases. Not a member? Visit www.rockfield.com.au and follow the links to join. Or contact us on (08) 9757 5006.

CURRENT TASTING NOTES

2004 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.

2004 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.

2004 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.

2002 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.

