

ROCKFIELD

ESTATE VINEYARD

MARGARET RIVER...*style*

Summer 2006

FROM THE VERANDAH...

As I sit on the verandah watching the vineyard in the cross light of the evening sun I reflect on the tumultuous last ten years since we first set about establishing Rockfield Estate and becoming a wine producer.

Pulling out fence posts, rolling wire, digging soil pits, planning vine blocks, sourcing vine rootlings, ramming posts, planting vines...trimming vines, fighting weeds, building the winery, getting tanks, a press, barrels, pumps, hoses, refrigeration...picking grapes, pumping must, bubbling ferments, delicious tastings and...future hopes...

Many of these have been realised, particularly with the selection of our family winemaker Andrew jnr as a 2006 Finalist in the Australian Young Winemaker of the Year Awards, judged by the Wine Society in NSW. Rockfield has also been recognised as a Pioneer in the Margaret River style of Semillon, our Reserve Cabernets and Chardonnays have been described as "gloriously complex" by James Halliday and last year our 2001 Chardonnay (our first chardonnay) was awarded a Gold Medal in the Aged Wine Class of the Margaret River Wine Show. We have now been awarded over 70 Show medals since we started producing wine!

As I help my older son Alex, our viticulturist, lift foliage wires in the vineyard I can see the rewards of our work in the improved soil fertility, the health and maturity of the vines and the great vine structure Alex has imparted, boding well for 2007 and the future. My daughter Anna is working hard to build a new web site with help from husband Garth and this will be part of our 10th Birthday celebrations. Alex's wife Monica has joined Anne, my wife, tackling the monumental paperwork involved in running the operation.

We extend our warmest wishes to you all for a happy Christmas, and a prosperous, healthy New Year.

Dr Andrew Gaman



ANDREW'S A FINALIST!

Our family winemaker, Andrew jnr was selected as a 2006 finalist in the prestigious national Australian Young Winemaker of the Year Awards, judged by the Wine Society of New South Wales. It is a tremendous achievement, with Andrew's 2006 Semillon and Semillon Sauvignon blanc being selected as his standout wines. Congratulations Andrew, your success is hard earned and well deserved.

ROCKFIELD IS TEN YEARS OLD!

November 2006 marked ten years since the family established Rockfield Estate Vineyard. It has been a long, and hard road at times, but with a lot of family commitment and hard work we are proud to have survived, and indeed thrived in the wine industry. We are confident in the knowledge that we consistently produce quality premium wines, and we thank all of our loyal customers over the past ten years.

Coinciding with our 10 year anniversary will be the release of our new look website, where customers will be able to browse and purchase wines on-line. Remember that free freight within Australia is included with all case purchases! Look out for the new website early in the New Year.

Visit www.rockfield.com.au

THE VINES...

Spring 2006 proved the complete opposite to what greeted us last year. The memories of the bleak wet and cold start have been well and truly thawed this year. Temperatures have been above average, consistent, and the vines have enjoyed it immensely. Growth has been even and strong, with cropping levels looking good. Everything is pointing towards great potential, especially for varieties like our Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.

We have been busier keeping the stronger growth in check with shoot thinning, wire lifting and shoot placement. The small team of workers we use for all our vineyard operations has been much happier with the great spring weather.

The 2007 vintage is at this stage looking great and we are excited at what result we will have to ponder next April when all is said and done.

Alex Gaman - Rockfield Estate Viticulturalist

THE WINES ...

Busy is a common theme in the winery at this time of year. Blending and preparing wines for bottling throughout December has meant a fairly hectic pace for winery staff. As we prepare to bottle the 2005 reds we also come to the release of our 2004 reds, which are currently tasting great, whilst allowing plenty of scope for ageing into the future. The 2004 Cabernet Merlot and Shiraz are now available for purchase through our cellar door, by mail order, and from selected liquor retailers.

As they prepare to come out of barrel the 2005 vintage reds are all showing great density, sweetness of fruit and fullness of fruit flavour. Also from our 2005 range, we will be releasing (around Christmas 2007) a new darling from the winery – our 2005 shiraz viognier. This wine style is newer throughout Australia but has been a popular style for centuries in its homeland - the Rhone region of France. Viognier is one of the rarest white grape varieties in the world, and is now slowly becoming more popular in Australia, being well suited to our Mediterranean climate. Our 2005 shiraz viognier exhibits classic shiraz spiciness, rich sweet plums, with delicious sweet floral fruits and the slightest hint of stone fruit and apricot. The release of this wine will make Rockfield one of only a select few currently producing the shiraz viognier style within the Margaret River region, and we look forward to great success with this wine in the future. It has certainly found itself right at home in the Rockfield portfolio of wines.

Andrew Gaman – Rockfield Estate Winemaker

CHRISTMAS WINE SPECIALS

Rockfield wine members are entitled to the following Christmas case specials, plus remember our free freight to anywhere in Australia with 1 or more case purchases. (offer valid until 31st January 2007)

Holiday Celebration Mixed Case \$190 per case*
* (\$34 saving off normal retail price) + Free Freight

2 x 2004 Cabernet Merlot
2 x 2004 Shiraz
2 x 2006 Rosa
3 x 2006 Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
1 x 2006 Semillon
1 x 2005 Unwooded Chardonnay
1 x 2006 Chardonnay

Christmas Reserve 6 Pack \$150 per 6 Pack*
*(\$48 saving off normal retail price) + Free Freight

2 x 2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon
2 x 2005 Reserve Chardonnay
2 x 2002 Reserve Sparkling Chardonnay

Those customers wishing to make up their own mixed case will receive 10% off the total price.

WINES IN FOCUS

2006 SEMILLON SAUVIGNON BLANC

★★★★☆

2007 Winestate Magazine

Judged Best Value White Wine

Ray Jordan – *Guide to the Best Whites for the Festive Season*, The West Australian Magazine, November 2006

"A relative newcomer to Margaret River and maybe only a few years away from the A-list. Doing some very nice things and this zesty, lively classic blend is a beauty. Drink now with seafood."

2006 SEMILLON



2006 Perth Royal Wine Show



2006 Hobart Royal Wine Show



2006 Margaret River Wine Show (top 06)



2006 Mount Barker Wine Show



2006 Murrumbateman Cool Climate Wine Show

Order a case now for the festive season!

ROCKFIELD

Tasting Notes

2006 Semillon Sauvignon blanc: This vibrant wine exhibits zesty lime, gooseberry and pear aromas with passionfruit, honey melon and guava. These flavours follow on to the rich and lightly spiced palate. The finish is enhanced by partial barrel fermentation.

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

2006 Chardonnay: A classic Chablis style Chardonnay that shows the strengths of the style, exhibiting melon, stone fruits, and apricot nectar on the nose and palate, with a hint of mineral flintiness adding a touch of class.

2006 Semillon: A fragrant cool climate style with barrel fermentation characters. There are citrus, gooseberry and vanilla aromas with peach, fig and honey melon on the palate. This wine may be drunk now or cellared for several years.

2006 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 passionfruit aromas with tropical fruit and orange peel on the palate.

2004 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.

2005 Merlot: This is a seductive Margaret River gem that shows fragrant plum and blueberry. Both red & dark fruits carry through to a sweet, rich and spicy palate which finishes with classic softness. A wine for all seasons.

2004 Cabernet Merlot: This true Margaret River blend shows sweet mulberry, blackcurrant and plum aromas. Sweet violet, mint chocolate and soft cedar oak carry through the pallet fine soft tannins compliment a long persisting dark berry finish.

2003 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon: A powerful reserve style showing rich blackcurrant and dark chocolate fruit supported by ample, ripe tannins. Very good mouthfeel and balance with a long finish. A classic Margaret River Cabernet.

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.

Museum Cellar:

2002 Chardonnay: Lifted Varietal characters of rockmelon, stone fruit and citrus are enriched by a creamy palate and barrel fermentation.

