

THE AUSTRALIAN

Heydon Estate

2016 Heydon Estate Hallowed Turf Single Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay, 2014 Heydon Estate The Willow Single Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay, 2013 Heydon Estate WG Grace Single Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon.

JAMES HALLIDAY THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINE 12:00AM March 31, 2018

When you come across a winery with a range of wines variously named Chin Music, The Sledge, The Doc, The Willow, The Urn, Hallowed Turf and WG Grace, you will either recognise them instantly or wonder what on Earth George and Mary Heydon are talking about. To save readers in the latter camp resorting to Google, it's cricket, and George is a tragic. A quick look at the labels would help, too.

In 1995, the Heydons became half owners of a Wilyabrup vineyard named Aramis, which had been planted to 2ha of cabernet sauvignon and 2.5ha of gingin clone chardonnay in 1988. The partnership was dissolved in 2004; the Heydons retained ownership of the vineyard and moved from Perth to Margaret River.

When nirvana can be achieved by watching every ball of a five-day Test match, nothing is too difficult. A planting program has seen the total vineyard area progressively increase to 10ha, the most important addition being 3.9ha of French clone chardonnay. Shiraz, semillon, sauvignon blanc and petit verdot plantings have given them a much broader varietal offering.

This has resulted in a river of wine show awards. At the last Margaret River Wine Show, Heydon Estate had its proudest moment when the '05, '08 and '14 WG Grace Cabernet Sauvignon won the Wine of Provenance Trophy.

George Heydon, who in 2002 completed viticulture and winemaking studies at the University of WA, sees Wilyabrup as the inner sanctum of Margaret River – Vasse Felix, Cullen and Moss Wood are his neighbours. Attention to detail is a much-used expression these days, but whether it's in the vineyard or the winery, that's what is given here. Heydon emailed me the other day saying: "I've been de-netting [bird protection] all morning, and I don't have much love for that."

2016 Heydon Estate Hallowed Turf Single Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay

Clonal mix of 50% 95 and 227, 50% gingin, 50% barrel fermentation in used French oak, 50% stainless steel barrels. Extraordinarily intense chardonnay; the oak has disappeared, leaving a pure, unadorned varietal mix of stone fruit and citrus. 12.5% alc, screwcap 95 points, drink to 2024, \$30

2014 Heydon Estate The Willow Single Vineyard Margaret River Chardonnay

100% gingin clone, whole-bunch pressed, cloudy juice to French oak (40% new), wild fermentation. This is true elegance, the straightest of straight bats. Margaret River isn't given to producing Chablis style, but this has a go, with many years (and runs) ahead. 13.5% alc, screwcap 97 points, drink to 2026, \$60

2013 Heydon Estate WG Grace Single Vineyard Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon

Crushed, destemmed, with four weeks on skins and 18 months in French oak (60% new). A very powerful wine, cabernet at its haughtiest best; the tannins are a firm but balanced part of the long, structured blackcurrant and black olive finish. 14% alc, screwcap 96 points, drink to 2038, \$85