



HOWARD PARK
WINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MARGARET RIVER VINEYARDS

LESTON VINEYARD, Wilyabrup, Central Margaret River

Howard Park's core Margaret River Vineyard

Original (Stage 1) plantings from 1996; 25 ha Bordeaux reds, shiraz and chardonnay. Mainly improved clones from limited gene pool available in WA. All VSP trellis systems apart from Smart Dyson in Shiraz blocks to make better use of inherent vine capacity.

Second stage plantings from 2000; 35 ha mainly cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and chardonnay with some cabernet franc and petit verdot, plus small block carnelian.

Final stage plus restructuring from 2007; 12ha mainly Houghton clone cabernet sauvignon, and some semillon to complete development of remaining suitable soil and to begin replacement of under performing varieties and clones eg cab franc.

Soil types vary from gravelly loams over clay along ridge tops to heavier textured and higher potential soils on lower ground.

Our focus is on quality performance of cabernet sauvignon on the best available soils, ie: moving away from so called improved clones to older available clones of known high quality attributes and placing these on the best available soils. Chardonnay is also a prime focus, concentrating on blocks that are already showing consistently high quality and seeking further improvements through more intensive canopy management.

Viticulture is predominantly organic with several blocks being run bio-dynamically for Marchand & Burch label.

B Block, Northern Margaret River

A small high quality vineyard on an elevated site with predominantly gravelly soils of low water holding capacity and a restricted water supply.

Planted mainly in 2001; 6 ha initially with a further 1 ha planted in 2007.

Now approximately equal proportions of cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay and shiraz.

All low capacity low yielding vines trained and operated on VSP trellis systems.

Viticulture is predominantly bio-dynamic.

Cape Lavender, Wilyabrup

Another small vineyard (approx 7 ha) with a high quality potential.

Leased by Howard Park for its cabernet sauvignon.

Small to moderate capacity vine and yield, VSP trellis system producing very good quality.

LESTON VINEYARD

Leston Vineyard is the estate vineyard for Howard Park Wines, Margaret River, named after Leston Burch, (pictured), the late father of Jeff Burch (owner) and David Burch (vineyard manager). The vineyard was established in 1994 and the first plantings were Chardonnay and Shiraz in 1996.



Although the vineyard has been developed along viticultural best practice guidelines, the overall visual aesthetics have been considered. There is minimal impact on the original native bush and the creek-line features have been preserved. Maximum head-lands around the vineyard and generous vine spacing (up to two metres) are examples of a less yield, better quality driven approach.



Howard Park Leston Vineyard Bird Sanctuary

In 2003, Howard Park Wines enlisted the assistance of Dr Ian Rooke, research ornithologist to study the creek line at the Leston Vineyard. This study was initiated following observations of increasing bird life in the area over the previous three years.



This project involved monitoring and gathering knowledge of the birds frequenting the area over a 12-month period as part of Howard Park Wines' long-term plan to develop a sanctuary for native animals and an observation area for visitors to the Leston Vineyard.

The first survey of the area identified 26 species of bird life including the Willy Wagtail, Silvereye, Brown Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Purple Swamp hen, Red Wattle Bird, Australian Magpie, Inland Thorn bill, Maned Duck, Laughing Kookaburra and Grey Teal. There are also four species presently breeding, including the New Holland Honeyeater, Red Wattle Bird, Maned Duck and Coot.

The survey aims to provide Howard Park Wines with the necessary knowledge to continuously develop their vineyards in a manner that is committed to the preservation of the area's unique wildlife, as well as enhancing visitor knowledge and enjoyment.