



VASSE FELIX

Tel +61 8 9756 5000 Fax +61 8 9755 5425
Cnr Caves Road and Harmans Road South, Cowaramup
PO Box 32 Cowaramup Western Australia 6284
info@vassefelix.com.au www.vassefelix.com.au

1996 CABERNET SAUVIGNON

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|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| winemakers | Clive Otto & Will Shields | alcohol | 13.7% |
| harvested | March 1996 | total acid | 6.2 g/L |
| wood | French and American oak – 18 months | ph | 3.51 |
| bottled | October 1997 | residual sugar | 0.1 g/L |

REGION

Western Australia

GRAPE VARIETIES

86% Cabernet Sauvignon

9% Merlot

3% Shiraz

2% Cabernet Franc

INTRODUCTION

In a recent Decanter Wine magazine Cabernet tasting, Margaret River was chosen as an area that can produce Cabernet's of refinement and class, alongside Coonawarra the best Cabernet area in Australia. The 1995 Cabernet Sauvignon was awarded the Decanter Award for "Outstanding quality, a virtually perfect example."

The refinement of Vasse Felix Cabernet in recent vintages has come from viticultural factors, such as vine age (approaching 30) fruit ripeness (picking when flavour ripe) and open canopy management. Refinement has also been due to winemaking factors, such as barrel fermentation, long skin maceration, tannin management and the use of the best French oak barrels.

WINEMAKERS COMMENTS

A classy and enigmatic wine with rich, ripe chocolate mint and blackcurrant aromas. Sweet, rich and decadent berry fruit flavours with great tannin structure and a persistent enduring finish.

Another paradoxical wine with sweet fruited and soft tannins, which allows current consumption but also the structure to age for up to 15 years.