



# MARGARET RIVER Wine News

MARGARET RIVER WINE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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## Margaret River Vintage Stomp 2005

Margaret River to have its first ever end of harvest Vintage Festival at Voyager Estate.



The Margaret River wine region in Western Australia will have its inaugural Vintage Festival on Sunday, 1 May 2005, in the grounds of Voyager Estate winery. To coincide with the Festival, Voyager Estate will also be hosting the debut of Noble Rot Theatre Company, who will be performing the great French dramatist Molière's play, "Don Juan", in a season of dinner shows from 29 April to 14 May 2005.

### Vintage Stomp Festival

The Vintage Stomp will celebrate the most important time of the year in Margaret River – harvest. Supported by the Margaret River community, the Festival will be a chance for locals from all vineyards and wineries in the region to kick up their heels and relax in the knowledge that the grapes are in for another year. Starting at noon, Voyager Estate's splendid grounds will be transformed into a magical fairground: a feast of food and wine, wandering minstrels, roaming circus artists, "living" sculptures haunting the Estate's famous traditional gardens, a parade of scarecrows (those hardworking protectors of the vines!), local crafts, dancing, wine-stomping competitions, and barrel races, all culminating in "The Blessing of the Harvest" by the god of wine himself, Bacchus.

"One of Margaret River's best kept secrets is that May is a glorious – some say the best – time of the year. The summer crowds have



Painting by Paul Rigby

gone, the skies are blue, and the golden-red hues of the autumn vines are breathtaking," says Cellar Door Manager, Sean Blocksidge. "The locals in the wine industry also love this time, because it heralds the end of their working year. The last of those tenderly nurtured grapes have been picked and the process of wine-making has begun. It's a time to celebrate!"

## Croser returns to Margaret River Wine Show

Margaret River Wine Industry Association is delighted to announce that Brian Croser, winemaker and Executive Chairman of Petaluma will be returning to Margaret River to take the role of Chairperson at this year's Margaret River Wine Show. The event is to be staged 29th November to 2nd December 2005.

The Margaret River wine show is the best opportunity for the region's producers to showcase their wines alongside their peers. Brian's involvement, with his national and international experience will be of enormous benefit to all involved.

Brian Croser has been closely involved in the administration and evolution of the modern Australian wine industry and is pleased to return to Margaret River in 2005.

"It was a pleasure to Chair and judge the Margaret River Wine Show in 2004 and I look forward to contributing to the 2005 Show. The judging panel looks great; some of the very best palates and most considered and independent wine opinions in the country.

"The real pleasure is to see the evolution in the diversity, quality and style of Margaret River wines as each of the subregions begins to exert climatic and soil influence as a synergy between variety and region.

"The greatest contribution the show can make is to provide leads for producers to understand the very best choice of variety and viticultural technique for their specific sites. Secondly it can help create a

regional will to make wine better such as the concerted and determined effort that has seen the almost complete elimination of *Bretannomyces* as a wine fault. Thirdly it helps to remind a fashion influenced fine wine audience of the long term commitment that has been made in Margaret River to the very highest standards of wine quality and consistency of approach, particularly with Cabernet, Merlot, Semillon/ Sauvignon Blanc blends and of course Chardonnay", he said.

The judges for the 2005 show are: Brian Croser (Chairman & Panel Leader), Iain Riggs (Panel Leader), Vanya Cullen, Steve Pannell, Tim White, David O'Leary.