



VASSE FELIX

GOURMET TRAVELLER WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

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Vasse Felix Chief Winemaker Virginia Willcock has been announced as the 2012 Gourmet Traveller Winemaker of the Year.

Virginia's passion and enthusiasm for Margaret River winemaking is an inspiration to many and this accolade is a well-deserved acknowledgment of Virginia's talent, and long-term dedication to her craft.

"I'd like to congratulate all of the 2012 finalists, and Jacob Stein who was announced as the Young Winemaker of the Year. It is very humbling to be considered alongside a group of winemakers who I have so much respect for," Virginia said.

"Thanks to Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine, an Australian leader, and a fundamental supporter of our industry."

"To the incredibly talented team I work with every day, thank you. And to Paul Holmes à Court. Our wines would not be possible without your belief in Margaret River and the worth of everything we do, everyday. It is a real privilege to make wine from the historic Vasse Felix vineyards, in such an amazing place as Margaret River. I wouldn't want to be any where else in the world."

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VIRGINIA WILLCOCK

Virginia Willcock is the Chief Winemaker behind some of Australia's most critically acclaimed wines at Margaret River's founding vineyard and winery, Vasse Felix.

As a teenager, Virginia saw the happiness and joy wine brought to her parents and their friends after a hard day's work in their small vineyard. It was here she decided winemaking was going to be her career.

"I loved the idea of growing fruit, and then turning it into something that could be more beautiful and would give people a lot of enjoyment."

Since then, Virginia has worked over two decades as a winemaker in Margaret River along with several vintages of international experience as a flying winemaker in Albania, Northern Italy, Sicily, Abruzzo and New Zealand.

"I think the most important thing is to make the wines you love to drink. As winemakers, we scour the world to find those rare and precious wines we will most love. The Margaret River environment is pristine and the historic Vasse Felix vineyards, they speak for themselves. So we must strive to make just that. To hone a distinctive style that is unique and special, that people all over the world will look for."

Virginia commenced as Chief Winemaker at Vasse Felix in October, 2006.

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Planted in 1967, Vasse Felix was the first vineyard and winery established in Margaret River. Vasse Felix makes a range of Cabernet Sauvignons, Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon blends.

The wines are distributed in Australia by Samuel Smith & Son and around the world by Negotiants International. For more information about Vasse Felix or to arrange interviews please contact Emily Sharland on +61 427 858 045 or email emily.sharland@vassefelix.com.au

