



VASSE FELIX
MARGARET RIVER

CHIEF WINEMAKER
VIRGINIA WILLCOCK



“Make the wines you love to drink. As winemakers we scour the world to find those rare and precious wines we will most love. So at Vasse Felix, with our pristine environment and historic vineyards 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.”

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.”

More than two decades on, Virginia is the Chief Winemaker behind some of Australia’s most critically acclaimed wines, at Margaret River’s founding wine estate, Vasse Felix. She joined as Chief Winemaker in October, 2006.

“It is such a privilege to be custodian of the historic Vasse Felix vines. Our focus is on Margaret River’s best performing varieties, Cabernet Sauvignon dominant wines, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc/ Semillon blends.”

“We aim to best express Margaret River’s regionality and the unique site characteristics of our vineyards and are fine tuning our practices from the vineyard through to winery each vintage to improve our understanding of site and clonal characters, to assist each parcel in the winery.”

“I truly believe the Margaret River region could be one of the greatest in the world. We’re only at the beginning of realising the full potential of the wines. I wouldn’t want to be making wine anywhere else!”

Virginia has completed 26 vintages in Margaret River, and worked international vintages in Albania, Northern Italy, Sicily, Abruzzo and New Zealand.

Virginia is one of the most awarded female winemakers in Australia, having been named ‘Gourmet Traveller WINE Australian Winemaker of the Year’ in 2012 (she was also a finalist in 2010) and ‘Winemaker of the Year’ by The West Australian Good Wine Guide 2013. Virginia was also nominated as ‘Winemaker of the Year’ in Wine Enthusiast Magazine USA’s 2014 Wine Star Awards, ‘Winemaker of the Year’ in the ASVO (Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology) Award for excellence 2016, and ‘Winemaker of the Year’ in the 2017 Australian Women in Wine Awards.

A respected authority on Margaret River winemaking, Virginia has represented the region as presenter and panellist of numerous international media and trade conventions and masterclasses, in addition to being a sought-after regional wine show judge. She also served on the board of the Margaret River Wine Industry Association for several years.

