

MENTELLE NOTES

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The Cape Mentelle Crew, Harvest 1983.

Emerald Dreams

Cape Mentelle reaches another milestone...

Emeralds conjure many things. Not just the green fields of Ireland. For starters there are some very famous, very beguiling large gemstones including the inscribed Mogul Mughal Emerald (217.8 carats). Elizabeth Taylor had a soft spot for these green glittering stones too.

Emerald green is the quintessential expression of nature, which is possibly how a Californian origin table grape earned its varietal name. And of course, Jim Morrison who died too young, sang of emerald dreams...

But for most of us, deep pea green emeralds signify a 55th Anniversary, time for a party or at least recognition of past achievements, commitment and for some, renewal and new horizons. A green bet each way.

In case you haven't been counting, 2025 marks Cape Mentelle's 55th year since foundation and there will be cake and candles for morning tea and toasts. For the record,

the first vines were planted in 1970 by a merry crew led by founder David Hohnen and his brothers. There are tall tales and true of those early days, when rows of baby vines were said to have been planted upside down, and the gang frequently disappeared to catch a world class surf just a stone's throw away.

'Give me songs to sing and emerald dreams to dream and I'll give you love unfolding.'

JIM MORRISON

Vintages rolled into the 1980's, more vines were planted (right-side up) and then along came Jimmy. In fact, back-to-back Jimmy Watsons that firmly put Cape Mentelle on the map, amplified by early east coast Cabernet Tastings at Melbourne's NGV Great Hall and Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art.

In the interim the Cape Mentelle label morphed from the original dark tree silhouette

to the now iconic golden marri treeline.

The original Wallcliffe Vineyard was just 16 hectares, its prized mature 55-year-old vines (listed on the global Old Vines Registry) producing every good season fully ripe intensely flavoured grapes, which are the primary source of the flagship *Cape Mentelle Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon*.

Constant viticultural care is applied to ensure our old vines give up their very best fruit every vintage, low-yielding cabernet sauvignon grapes that are mollycoddled all the way from vine to wine.

In recent years Cape Mentelle has invested significantly in vineyard rejuvenation focussing particularly on our flagship vines – chardonnay and cabernet.

Wise grape growers rarely express affection for their favourite variety, for obvious reasons, but Cape Mentelle's Chief of Winemaking and Viticulture, David Moulton is happy to mark the slate with serious support for cabernet, arguably the king of red grapes and an undoubted Margaret River classic.

'Cabernet has always been Cape Mentelle's local hero icon red grape and anchor of the annual International Cabernet Tasting. And we're committed to continually investing in its heritage both in the vineyard, winery and marketplace,' explained Dave.

That constancy underpins the overall Cape Mentelle approach, a case of doing things 'once and well' according to the inherited gospel of founder David Hohnen. Labels might have morphed slightly, ownership changed and staff passed through

the barrel hall doors but essentially the past 50-plus years have charted a course that we're sure would have pleased the French Mentelle brothers, geographer Edmund and cartographer Francois-Simon, who gave the Cape and ultimately the winery, its name.

Happy Emerald Birthday to Cape Mentelle and all who sail in her – or still remember the good old days!

New Releases

Here's a fine quartet to make your day!
Four wines that express the essence of Cape Mentelle and its 55-year history. From the oldest Wallcliffe estate to a return of the ever popular Trinders Cabernet Merlot and celebration of all things zinfu...

All wines are available to Wine Club members, online shoppers and at Cellar Door. If you have any queries please contact the helpful Cape Mentelle staff.

T: 08 9757 0812 or

E: cellardoor@capementelle.com.au

CAPE MENTELLE WALLCLIFFE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023

• *Soulful* • *Illuminating* • *Exploratory*

The Wallcliffe series of wines are consistently produced using the finest parcels of estate fruit. This pure sauvignon blanc evokes focus, vibrancy and minerality.

'Pale gold with an intensely varietal nose, tropical notes and Gala apples. The silky palate evolves with generous flavours of nectarine, guava and passionfruit: richly layered with a racy bright finish. Pair with King George whiting.'

CAPE MENTELLE WALLCLIFFE CABERNET FRANC 2022

• *Powerful* • *Charming* • *Unexpected*

Mature 40-year-plus cabernet franc vines provide consistently elegant yet powerful fruit. Viticulturist, Annabel Angland, endorses the 2022 vintage as 'a stunning expression of the variety' complemented by a smidge of cabernet and merlot.

'Poised mellifluous palate, both powerful and delicate, that is to say an intriguing wine. The palate's sandy tannins are well integrated, continuing to a lingering close of wild roses with a turmeric lift.'

CAPE MENTELLE TRINDERS CABERNET MERLOT 2023

• *Balanced* • *Rounded* • *Generous*

Back to its former glory – this Trinders is the original classic blend of cabernet and merlot. It captures the depth and structure of cabernet with the dark fruit and plush flavours of merlot, which are blended to create a well-rounded, full, rich style.



'Medium bright magenta with vibrant aromatics of cranberry, cassis, red cherries and pomegranate. Plus nuances of oregano and sumac spice that amplify floral notes of lavender and rosemary. A well modulated wine with fresh acidity and enticing vitality. Made for porcini risotto.'

CAPE MENTELLE ZINFANDEL 2023

• *Bold* • *Vibrant* • *Lavish*

The red that turns heads! Jump in fast says winemaker Coralie Lewis. 'The dry grown, low-yielding bush vines from our original Estate deliver an incredible layered wine of depth and power, a truly memorable experience.'

'Think panforte and you're in the zone... complex with raspberry coulis and black cherry, fig and lavender notes. Intense sweet spice frame gilded with nutmeg, vanilla and star anise. Lush and long palate to pair with slow braised beef cheeks.'

Top Guns

There is no doubt that the UK remains one of the world's most influential wine markets. That pre-eminence has evolved over decades, conjured by wine negociants, the perceptive palates of learned wine writers, sundry expert sommeliers and Masters of Wine.

The UK's various wine competitions matter too. And that's where this year Margaret River has shone brightly. At the 2025 Decanter Wine Awards Margaret River producers claimed 22 Top-Tier Awards and 104 medals. *Cape Mentelle Heritage Shiraz* 2023 scored a Platinum Medal, while *Cape Mentelle Heritage Chardonnay* 2023 and *Cape Mentelle Shiraz* 2023 both scored Gold.

And at the recent International Wine & Spirits Competition, partnered for the third time with the Margaret River Wine Association the star-turn variety was Chardonnay, nabbing 20 Gold Medals confirming the region's international stature for this ABC (Always Bring Chardonnay) grape. Cape Mentelle scored two Gold Medals for the *Heritage Chardonnay* 2024 and the *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay* 2023. The trophy taste-off for this renowned competition will be held in London – stay tuned.

And a footnote, the region also shone at the 2025 Sydney Royal Wine Show with nine trophies awarded to Margaret River brands.

Wine Club

With spring in the air and Christmas around the corner it is definitely time to review your planned summer season and cellared collection of Cape Mentelle favourites. Do you need a special BYO bottle for the office EOY party? Or to stock the holiday house fridge? These two **Summer Wine Club Six-Packs** might just fit the bill...

Mentelle Explorers

A flight of Chardonnay and three iconic reds:

2021 *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay*

2022 *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay*

2023 *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay*

2021 *Cape Mentelle Shiraz*

2022 *Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon*

2021 *Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon*

Mentelle Collection

Cellar matured selection spanning seven vintages...

2017 *Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon*

2017 *Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc Semillon*

2019 *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay*

2017 *Cape Mentelle Shiraz*

2023 *Cape Mentelle Chardonnay*

2016 *Two Vineyards Shiraz*

If you are visiting Margaret River over the summer, don't forget that all Wine Club members are invited to join us for a complimentary tasting.

Our Regional and Heritage tastings are available daily at Cellar Door 10am – 5pm.

If you are not yet a member of our Wine Club and would like to join, please follow this link: www.capementelle.com.au/Wine-Club

We hope to welcome you and your travelling companions soon!



Margs impresses the 2025 IWSC judges.

Vine Sounds

What's the connection between the rumbling of creatures beneath the vineyard and the enjoyment of a glass of cabernet sauvignon? Dr Jo Burzynska delves into the soil...

Pic: Courtesy Jo Burzynska



David Moulton wired for Sounds of Mentelle.

I'm among the historic cabernet vines of the Wallcliffe Vineyard with Cape Mentelle's David Moulton. We're listening to the intriguing sounds of subterranean critters cutting a crunchy path through the soil and communicating through clicks and stridulation – the grating sound made by enthusiastic arthropods rubbing their hard body parts together.

Normally we don't hear these sounds. In fact, most people have no idea that the soil of a healthy vineyard is such a sonically

will again, to present my findings at this year's Margaret River Pair'd Festival. Using recordings I've been making of the region's nature, winegrowing and culture – from the soil to the surf that David says he can sometimes hear in the vineyard – I have composed soundscapes inspired by the sounds of Margaret River and its wines. These are sonic signatures of the region's key wine styles, which of course include its flagship red, cabernet sauvignon.

However, these are soundscapes with a difference. Not only do they capture some aspects of wine that we don't usually hear, but the sounds themselves are selected to enhance the distinctive sensory profile of each wine style. That low rumbling in the soil can enhance the perception of the body of cabernet sauvignon, while the slightly rough tone of the stridulation draws attention to the variety's fine but firm tannins.

Sound can significantly 'remix' our experience of the wines we're drinking. This effect of sound on the perception of taste has been gaining increasing attention since functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) literally looked inside our brains to reveal just how interconnected our senses are. When you're drinking a glass of wine, its aromas, flavours, and textures are all being shaped by input from senses beyond those of taste and smell.

Working as a wine writer and judge, I've always tried to taste wine in silence. When I realised just how powerful and universal the influence of sound was on the tasting experience, I was relieved that I'd conducted

'Sound can significantly 'remix' our experience of the wines we're drinking.'

active place. However, I'm using a highly sensitive geophone. With its probe inserted in the soil, it picks up the acoustic vibrations of life below the vineyard's surface – life we now know is just as important in the web of terroir as what goes on above ground.

Tasting Notes: Sounds of a Region is the project that took me to Cape Mentelle and

my professional wine assessments in quiet spaces. However, as most wine is drunk in environments where sound is present, I was also intrigued to know more, especially given my parallel careers as a wine writer, composer and sonic artist.

Research that specifically investigates sound's impact on wine only started to be



rigorously conducted in the last 15 years. Largely within experimental psychology, this has focused on discovering why these often surprising sensory correspondences occur. I was curious to find out more specific sensory resonances between wine and sound, and how these might coalesce to enhance the wine drinking experience. This interest culminated in a PhD and my forthcoming book, exploring the effect of sound on wine characters and how these correspondences can be practically and creatively applied.

The research confirmed that when sonic or musical characteristics are matched with corresponding wine characters, people can connect more deeply with the drinking experience and amplify enjoyment.

Specifically, my studies found that high pitches boost the perception of acidity, low pitches increase wine body, and timbre influences wine texture – all insights used in the Tasting Notes project.

At the time of writing, my Cabernet composition is still in progress. I'll likely map the intensity of Margaret River's cabernet to richer tones, its complexity to layers of sound and its characteristic freshness to higher pitches and brighter tones. Semillon sauvignon blanc, chardonnay and sparkling wine are also getting their own signature soundtracks.

Tasting Notes: Sounds of a Region will premiere at the Pair'd Nature's Table event. Other individual works will be presented throughout the festival's Grand Tasting. Cape Mentelle's Cabernet underground might even return to resound above ground at the International Cabernet Tasting!

Listen to a snippet of the underground recording in the Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe Vineyard here: <https://soundcloud.com/stanier-black-five/cape-mentelle-underground>

Dr Jo Burzynska is a New Zealand-based sound artist, wine writer and researcher specialising in multi-sensory approaches to wine tasting. She is Wine Editor of the New Zealand Herald's Viva magazine and the author of Wine Class. Her sound art has been presented globally from London to Rome.

Come to Cabernet



Glasses half full of Cabernet Tasting intrigue.

For the record, it was American Fred Ebb who wrote the timeless lyrics for Liza Minelli's signature song 'Life is a Cabaret' and we'd like to think both Liza and Fred would be happy morphing that sentiment to – Cabernet, old chum!

That king of red grapes beguiling to so many for so long – winemakers, negociants, sommeliers and keen wine hounds, especially those willing to cellar chosen prestige growths awaiting an appropriate occasion, with or without musical accompaniment.

One such occasion is coming up! The 43rd **Cape Mentelle International Cabernet Tasting** will be held on **Friday 21 November**, again running in conjunction with the Margaret River Pair'd Festival.

This prestigious wine calendar event that originated in 1982 features an incredible line-up of international cabernet sauvignons

from Vintage 2022 spanning Bordeaux, Napa Valley, Tuscany and New Zealand along with a bevy of notable best bottles from Margaret River and other Australian regions. Three blind brackets will be poured and introduced by wine industry commentators, including two Masters of Wine – Andrew Caillard (Australia) and Richard Hemming (UK), along with local wine writers Huon Hooke, Ray Jordan and others.

The benchmark tasting is followed by a long slow lunch, to be curated by George Cooper of Tiller Dining who has created a cabernet-matched menu featuring regional seasonal produce.

Tickets have almost sold out – so to avoid disappointment be sure to direct your enquiries without delay to cabernet.tasting@capementelle.com.au or purchase through our partners [Pair'd Margaret River](#).

Raise the Roof – Oi Oi Oi!

Keen rugby supporters will be singing the Wallaby anthem 'A Number on My Back' with added gusto at both national and international matches from Perth and Auckland to Sydney and Paris over the next three years fired by the news that Cape Mentelle has joined both the Wallabies and the Wallaroos as both teams' official wine partner. Definitely worth another enthusiastic round of Oi Oi Oi!

Rugby Australia's CEO, Phil Waugh, likens the Wallabies and Wallaroos pride in high standards to Cape Mentelle's commitment to quality and best performance.

'We look forward to raising a glass or two of their exceptional wines over the next three years when we mark momentous occasions.' Perhaps even when the final siren posts a solid winning score?

Equally enthusiastic about the match is Cape Mentelle's David Moulton, an avowed rugby man.

'Making memorable wines also requires teamwork, determination and the passionate pursuit of peak performance,' muses David as he plans his attendance at the pre-match Bledisloe Cup 2025 Long Lunch to be held at The Morris Hotel in Perth.

Second Serve

The Cape Mentelle International Cabernet Tasting may well be the headline act during the 2025 Pair'd Festival but it's not the only chance to enjoy Cape Mentelle wines. The Grand Tasting to be held at Howard Park on 22–23 November, features icon wines from several Margaret River producers, including Cape Mentelle presenting both our Heritage and Museum collection. We will also be participating in the Masterclasses hosted by wine writers Erin Larkin and Nick Ryan.

The Grand Tasting is far more than a cellar door visit – it's a four-hour wine-tasting celebration of iconic vintages, limited release and winemaker favourites, all in one stunning location. Indulge too in delicious festival fare crafted by acclaimed Sydney chef Matt Moran performing with cook, author and Italian soprano Silvia Colloca. Just add a splash of live opera to fill your glass for a most memorable Margs weekend!

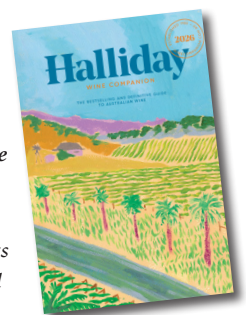
Five Star

Every year Australia's winemakers hover in anticipation of the release of the latest edition of the *Halliday Wine Companion*. Much to the winemaking team's delight Cape Mentelle has again been awarded a top deck 5 Red Star Rating, four wines scoring 95-Points or more. **Cape Mentelle Heritage Chardonnay 2023** leads off. 'One of the finest to date.' 96 Points

Cape Mentelle Chardonnay 2023
'Moreish and savoury.' 95 Points

Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe Sauvignon Blanc 2023 'Racy and refreshing.' 95 Points

Cape Mentelle Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon 2022 'Good gear that straddles savoury inputs with a core of beautiful fruit.' 95 Points



We've Got It!

Wine Australia has launched a new promotional campaign...



Glasses half full is the essence of the pitch of Wine Australia's current campaign seeking to encourage us all to fill more glasses with amazing, seductive Australian wine. Whether it's a Margaret River chardonnay, a Hunter semillon or a Tassie pinot. Just so long as you don't polish up Nana's crystal, then pull the cork on that last lovingly cellared Bordeaux First Growth. Best to leave it languishing in the cellar a little longer while we engage in some serious vinous nationalism.

We need all palates primed to support the 'We've Got a Wine for That' campaign devised by Wine Australia. A wine for Tuesday's Probus meeting, for the P&C Trivia Night, to match High Tea at the local CWA fundraiser and to toast the latest fall in home loan interest rates.

Of course, you'll need to set aside some extra special selections for aforementioned Nana's 70th birthday, to relive your tropical island honeymoon or for you or your son's (and/or daughter's) graduation.

Major milestones matter but so too do Fridays or indeed the end of most days, when you pause and quietly consider the week's achievements, and not just mowing the lawn.

So, just in case you may need a little guidance matching moments to suitable wines, we've delved into the Cape Mentelle cellar for inspiration. Frankly, it's the best gesture we can think of to encourage both responsible service of alcohol and Drink Wise consumption. And bolster the nation's wine for all times campaign.

A Wine for That!

- **Garden Club and Spring Picnics**
Cape Mentelle Rosé
All pretty 'n' pink, a blend of shiraz and grenache brimming with wild strawberry and watermelon notes.
- **Wild Catch Fishing Comp**
Cape Mentelle Brooks Sauv Blanc Semillon
Vibrant foil to almost any unlucky fish – specially recommended with ceviche or maybe yuzu marinated kingfish.
- **Art Gallery Patrons Preview**
Cape Mentelle Chardonnay
When toasting creativity – a perfect complement rendering elegance and richness, vibrant fruit and subtle oak framing (no gilding needed).
- **Grandad's Birthday**
Cape Mentelle Cabernet Sauvignon
The CM Cabernet lineage dates back to the very beginning. Check your cellar or call our staff if you are seeking a particular vintage to align with special birthdays that deserve a prestige gently matured cabernet.
- **Wine Options Night**
Cape Mentelle Zinfandel
The perfect pick to trick most perspicacious palates! Another memorable CM original red with Californian origins resonating black cherry, coconut and spice. Just think panforte and you'll nail it instantly!
- **Tango Classes**
Cape Mentelle Wallcliffe Cabernet Franc
Add drama to your lessons! And set the rhythm and pace, fired by aromas and sips of wild cherry, plums and cassis framed by sumac spice. Perfect match for that flamboyant sensual clingy red dress.

If these 'We've Got It' wine time tips hit the spot or indeed inspire other memorable occasions, capture the moment and send us a photo of your 'Mentelle Wine Match'. Best pix will be published on Instagram and go into the draw for a Cape Mentelle Six-Pack. Carefully selected of course to go with this – and that. Or whatever.

Farewell Sandy

Founder of Cape Mentelle, David Hohnen, marks the passing of his wife Sandy who died unexpectedly in June.

'Sandy and I had 60 years together. This is a brief story of those years.

We met in Perth when we were 17 and in no time became girlfriend and boyfriend. We shared a disastrous first year at uni but our relationship never faltered. I moved to California to study winemaking. She joined me for a summer holiday; we hit the road in a '53 VW Bug for an unforgettable adventure and the beginning of a marvellous journey.

We married at 22 and made our home in Margaret River where I was planting the vines that were the genesis of Cape Mentelle. Sandy worked beside me in the vineyard until babies started arriving and she swapped jobs to be a devoted mother. Her family is McHenry, Irish to be sure. She was the life of any party. Her raucous laugh is legendary.



A home was built for us next to the winery. Sandy was raised in a pub and had a good knowledge of wine and an excellent palate. When I put blends together I would take home a sample. She was critical and accurate and nothing went to bottle without her endorsement.

Kids grew up and left home and she had time for her evolving interests. The kids had kids and she loved being a grandma. She leaves four kids – Aarne, Gemma, Giles and Freya. She was a truly wonderful person.'

'A good bottle of wine, like a good act, shines ever in retrospect.'

ROBERT LOUIS STEPHENSON

Screen Scene

Summer is synonymous with **Movies at Cape Mentelle** when the big screen rises in the winery grounds, the lawns are fastidiously mown and beanbags and blankets emerge from hibernation. For nigh on six weeks the native winery gardens are transformed into an outdoor theatre, with a curated film program scheduled to run weekly from **17 December 2025 to 31 January 2026**. Film buffs and gourmands alike can expect classic and new release films, theme nights, plus some nostalgia matched with finger-licking catering provided by the Little Hands Dumplings food truck. Settle back into a bean bed or sprawl on your BYO picnic blanket for an alfresco starlit meal matched with your favourite glass of Cape Mentelle's finest and the latest must watch movies.

The final complete program details will be available at www.capementelle.com.au/movies or follow us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/MoviesAtCapeMentelle



Sweet Music

Could there be a better setting for a classical concert than the Cape Mentelle Vat Cellar, again one of the chosen venues for the biennial not-to-miss Australian String Quartet Margaret River Weekend of Music.

This year ASQ features Western Australia's star soprano Sara Macliver to headline the program featuring Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi, plus Schubert's gripping *Death and the Maiden* and Beethoven's *String Quartet No. 5 in A Major* and other works.

The morning concert at Cape Mentelle on Saturday 8 November will be followed by a picnic lunch on the lawn with glasses of your favourite music-matching Cape Mentelle wine. Bookings: <https://asq.com.au/liveconcerts/margaret-river-weekend-of-music-2025/>



Go Mentelle

If you need any inspiration for your first or next **Mentelle Ambassador** photo entry look no further than the marina at the Kawana Waters Hotel on the Mooloolah River on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. The matching marine blue label on this ambassadorial bottle of *Cape Mentelle Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon* was enough to catch the MN editor's eye, published here to mark a new call for entries in our be-in-it-to-win-it **Mentelle Ambassador** program.

For many years *Mentelle Notes* has encouraged budding ambassadors to take happy snaps, now selfies, starring you and your chosen ambassadorial Cape Mentelle bottle. Be it aboard your yacht, at the Arctic Circle with polar bears or atop tall buildings from Paris to Phnom Penh, or just Perth.

It's up to you gentle MN readers to get out and about clutching a handy Cape Mentelle bottle for your next adventure. Take a selfie and send it to: info@capementelle.com.au

If *Mentelle Notes* publishes the photo your prize is a current release mixed case.

So start snapping!



Pic: Kane Moroney

Latest Drops

CAPE MENTELLE CHARDONNAY 2023

'Moreish and savoury, with plenty of flavour. Spicy oak...lemon curd and clotted cream lees add texture across the palate. Fine acidity ensures a fresh finish and gets you ready for the next sip.'

95 POINTS, Jane Faulkner
HALLIDAY WINE COMPANION 2026

CAPE MENTELLE WALLCLIFFE SAUVIGNON BLANC 2023

'Light, bright, shiny yellow in the glass with a nutty barrel-ferment aspect to the alluring bouquet. Classy, spicy oak...The palate being richer and more intense than most, with real depth and gravitas. An excellent wine.'

95 POINTS, Huon Hooke
REAL REVIEW

CAPE MENTELLE SINGLE SITE BLOCK 10 CHARDONNAY 2024

'Quite frankly one of the very best I've ever seen from Cape Mentelle with precision and poise that is most impressive. Lovely white peach, grapefruit and citrus characters merge with a little chalky acidity. There is tremendous intensity...focused to the finish, which is incredibly long. A first-rate wine.'

97 POINTS, Ray Jordan
WA WINE REVIEW

CAPE MENTELLE HERITAGE SHIRAZ 2022

'Taps into the deep well of shiraz's considerable power...Sweet aromatics of liquorice, baking spices, pepper, loganberry, plum, black fruits with some cocoa toasty oak notes. Flexes its muscle with some particularly schmick oak.'

95 POINTS, Jeni Port
WINE PILOT

CAPE MENTELLE HERITAGE CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021

'A stylish and elegantly structured cabernet. Perfumed notes of blackcurrant and dark fruits intrigue on the nose. The palate is still quite firm... chalky tannins and fine-grained oak working in perfect harmony.'

96 POINTS, Ray Jordan
WA WINE REVIEW