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WINE LIST With **John Fordham**, 14 May, 2006

“Since he established Margan Family wines in the Broke-Fordwich corner of the Hunter Valley a decade ago, Andrew Margan has worked hard at creating styles that define his approach to winemaking.

With a background honed from his days working alongside the legendary Murray Tyrrell across the valley at Pokolbin, Margan says he’s “resisted falling into line with the shiny stuff the area is producing these days”.

His latest red offerings from the 2004 vintage—shiraz, cabernet sauvignon, merlot and barbera are the products of first-class vineyard management and skilled winemaking.

Cabernets are as rare as hen’s teeth in the Hunter; shiraz being the foundation stone red in this region. In the Broke-Fordwich area, however, it does surprisingly well, especially from low-yielding vines growing on Margan’s Vere vineyard. “It’s a big wine for a Hunter cabernet, with huge tannins and rich mouthfeel”, says Margan.

He describes his shiraz as “old school Hunter”, with its fruit-driven flavours. “We aren’t the Barossa and don’t aspire to be”, he says in reference to Australia’s most successful shiraz region. The Margan merlot and barbera complete a dazzling quartet of Hunter reds.”

