

James Halliday Wine Companion 2003

House of Certain Views Hunter Valley ★★★★★

“A stand-alone business owned by Andrew and Lisa Margan, with a fascinating portfolio of wines based on exclusive or fairly new wine growing regions on the western side of the Great Dividing Range. The selection of the vineyard sites (via contract growers) involves a careful correlation of latitude, altitude, soil type and variety—the French catch it all in the single word ‘terroir’. The initial releases are particularly impressive given the youth of the vines; one can only imagine the venture will go from strength to strength. The packaging of the wines, incidentally, is brilliant...

...A brilliant concept by the Margan Family, utilising grapes from high altitude vineyards on the western side of the Great Dividing Range, in some instances pioneering areas hitherto unplanted. Meticulously made wines.”

James Halliday

House of Certain Views Orange Shiraz 1999

Vivid red-purple, particularly striking given its age; a youthful, clean and exuberant bouquet of raspberry and blackberry is faithfully repeated on the youthful palate with abundant juicy berry fruit. All in all, well removed from the mainstream. **Rating: 88**

House of Certain Views Mt Kaputar Merlot 2000

Medium to full red-purple; a rich and ripe bouquet with spicy berry fruit to the fore, a touch of oak following up on the rear, then a particularly complex palate offering an interplay of dark fruits and olive/savoury aspects, all supported by gentle tannins running through to the finish. Trophy winner at the 2001 Boutique Wine Show. **Rating: 90**

House of Certain Views Coonabarabran Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

Medium red-purple; a cedary/spicy/savoury bouquet, not the least green, indeed verging on the overripe, is followed by a ripe, almost jammy, palate with a flood of sweet cassis/berry fruit. That fruit has literally eaten the oak, which is not at all prominent. **Rating: 87**

Margan Family Winegrowers ★★★★★

“Andrew Margan followed in his father’s footsteps by entering the wine industry 20 years ago; he has covered a great deal of territory since, working as a flying winemaker in Europe, then for Tyrrell’s, first as a winemaker then as marketing manager. His wife Lisa, too, has had many years of experience in restaurants and marketing. They now have 10 hectares of fully yielding vines at their 50-hectare Ceres Hill homestead property at Broke, and lease the nearby Vere Vineyard of 13 hectares. The first stage of a 700-tonne on-site winery was completed in 1998, the first wines having been made elsewhere in 1997. Wine quality (and the packaging) is consistently good. Exports to the UK, the US, Canada and the Netherlands. **James Halliday**

Margan Family Semillon 2001

Light green-yellow; youthful, but already showing quite intense lemony varietal character; the palate likewise is starting to flex its muscles; it is long and multiflavoured, with a faintly grippy finish which may well soften back into the wine with further time. **Rating: 90**

Margan Family Verdelho 2001

Light to medium yellow-green; the moderately intense bouquet is clean, with fruit salad aromas, swelling somewhat on the palate with a range of fruit salad, nectarine and citrus fruit; good balance. **Rating: 86**

Margan Family Chardonnay 2001

Medium yellow-green; a very complex bouquet with lots of toasty oak, but also powerful fruit. The palate is abundantly flavoured, with rich, yellow peach fruit flavours and complementary toasty oak. A quick-developing style best enjoyed now. **Rating: 88**

Margan Family Botrytis Semillon 2000

Orange-gold; a complex and fragrant bouquet of cumquat and honeycomb is followed by a long, intense and complex palate. Gold medal 2001 Hunter Valley Wine Show. **Rating: 93**

Margan Family Shiraz 2000

Medium to full purple-red; strong, dark fruit, with regional earthy overtones is followed by a palate still in its infancy, but well constructed and with good length. A good outcome for a challenging vintage. **Rating: 88**

Margan Family Shiraz Saignee 2001

Vivid red-purple; there is quite powerful fruit on the bouquet offering a mix of berry, earth and spice; the palate is well-balanced, and most definitely not sweet; best served slightly chilled. **Rating: 85**

Margan Family Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

Dense red-purple; a powerful, herby/earthy aroma with savoury aspects is offset by a touch of vanillin oak. The palate has plenty of blackcurrant/blackberry fruit at its core, surrounded at the moment by tannins and some American oak. Here, too, patience will be rewarded. **Rating: 89**