

Jeremy Oliver Reviews Margan in 2013 Australian Wine Annual

Most of Margan's wines are deliberately and very consistently made by Andrew Margan to be enjoyed without a requisite period of cellaring. While the White Label Limited Release wines are rather more serious, artful and long living, I have to confess that I now really look forward to tasting the Margan Limited Release reds, which combine so much of winemaking art and science. The 2009 Limited Release Shiraz Mourvedre, the finest Margan wine ever made, is a masterpiece in the wild, savoury and briary style.

Margan Limited Release White Label Shiraz Mourvedre 2009 - 95 Points

Elegant and savoury, its spicy, faintly smoky bouquet of musky spices, blackberries, dark plums, blueberries and briar reveals suggestions of raspberries, earthiness and charcuterie-like undertones. Long and even, medium in weight, its piercing, faintly berry/cherry fruit stains the palate with sour-edged flavour, finishing with brightly lit acidity.

Margan Limited Release White Label Barbera 2009 - 93 Points

Supple and willowy, long and smooth, this fragrant and floral barbera marries deep, penetrative flavours of black, blue and red berries with nuances of underbrushy, tar and fennel. It's heady and fragrant, bright and vivacious, with a long, even presence of almost jujube-like fruit knit with smooth, creamy tannins, finishing startlingly fresh and focused, with bright acids and sour-edged flavour.

Margan Botrytis Semillon 2010 - 92 Points

This very sweet but artfully balanced dessert wine has a fragrance of lemon blossom, apricot and orange rind with undertones of peach and melon, burned butter and caramel. Its luscious, juicy palate extends long and fresh with an unctuous but focused and faintly chalky presence of lemon, peach and apricot flavour finishing with racy acids and a lingering note of lemon meringue.

Margan Aged Release Semillon 2006 - 91 Points

A delightfully complex and textured semillon that's perhaps a fraction brassy but reveals a very mature, toasty and buttery bouquet whose ripe, juicy lemon/marmalade notes reveal smoky and toasty development. Underpinned by a fine lemon sherbet-like texture, its forward and juicy, but evolved sufficiently to finish with assertive nutty, waxy and savoury aspects.

Margan Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 - 90 Points

Charmingly polished and approachable, with a scent of violets, small red berries, cassis and plums tightly knit with cedar/vanilla oak and underlying herbal nuances, this elegant, supple and fine-grained cabernet delivers vibrant, delicious varietal flavour. Framed by pliant, loose-knit tannin, it's long and persistent, with a well-mannered background of chocolate/cedar oak and a finish of bright, lively acidity.

Margan Limited Release White Label Shiraz 2009 - 90 Points

Elegant and complex, with a smoky, lightly herbal and reductive bouquet of redcurrants red plums and sweet cedar/vanilla oak backed by suggestions of cloves and cinnamon. Medium in weight, it's forward and sweetly fruited, but delivers a fine-grained presence of suppleness and flavour. It finishes with fresh acids and lingering briary/redcurrant fruit, but is just a fraction cooked and jammy for a higher rating.

Margan Merlot 2009 - 89 Points

Medium to full-bodies, fresh and juicy, with bright, generously flavoured fruit underpinned by fine, bony tannins and wrapped in bright acids, this floral young merlot has a bouquet of dark cherries, plums and raspberries backed by nuances of sage, rosemary and a hint of vanilla oak. Its slightly currant-like palate of plum and cherry fruit finishes slightly short, with faintly greenish, metallic edges.

Margan Chardonnay 2010 - 87 Points

Punchy ripe aromas of lemon sherbet, melon and green olive over meaty hints of creamy lees influences and a whiff of mineral precede a luscious, round and almost syrupy palate whose plush, juicy fruit has a fine chalky undercarriage. It finishes soft and is likely to age quickly.

Margan Shiraz 2009 - 87 Points

Generous, sweetly fruited and jammy, its spicy very ripe aromas of plums, red berries and currants precede a forward, smooth but green-edged palate whose sweet berry/cherry flavours are underpinned by fine, loose-knit tannins and finish with slightly metallic acids.

Margan Semillon 2010 - 83 Points

Rather spicy, faintly spiky and evolved, with advanced aromas of toasty brown apple, cloves and cinnamon with a whiff of lanolin before a soft, creamy, buttery and toasty palate, whose slightly awkward lemon and melon flavours finish with soft acids but lack genuine length and freshness.