



Moss Wood is a premium wine producer with high-quality winery located in the Margaret River Wine region of Western Australia. The area is regarded as one of Australia's premium grape growing regions.

Owners Keith and Clare Mugford enjoy the challenge of consistently producing high quality wines at Moss Wood. All decisions made in the vineyard and winery are based on the effect they will have on the quality of the wine. By striving to implement appropriate viticultural and vinicultural advances, they aim to further improve their understanding of premium wine production and enable Moss Wood to maintain its position as a leading Australian winery.

This was its raison d'etre and still provides the motivation for its continued existence. It is Keith and Clare's belief that all decisions made in the vineyard or at the winery are based on the effect they will have on the quality of the wine.

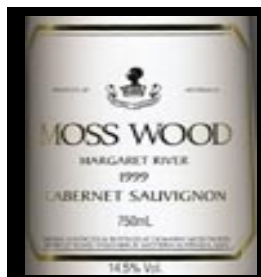
As a new wine producing area, Margaret River has a short viticultural history, therefore winemakers need to be continually reassessing their soil management practices and the performance of their vines if they are to understand the viticulture of the region and obtain the best results in the vineyard. A belief that the quality of the wine is largely determined in the vineyard means that continual efforts are made at Moss Wood to improve viticultural techniques. This can be seen in the adoption of the Te Kauwhata Two Tier system for the recently planted Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. These changes have reduced foliage density and exposed the grapes to more sunlight. Not only has this improved quality and crop yield but also it has made picking, pruning and spraying easier and quicker.

As well as this, there are experiments at Moss Wood in various aspects of soil conservation technology including deep cultivation, the use of cover crops, minimum tillage and mulching. Mulching has played a significant role in saving the vines from stress in the dry summer months. Experimentation in the vineyard has been matched at the winery and the wines have undergone subtle refinements over the past decade. **Two factors have resulted in the production of Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignons, which are more complex and have greater finesse.** The wines are given longer skin contact time during fermentation and small amounts of Cabernet Franc (5%) and Merlot (0.05%) are now included in the blend. From the 1995 vintage onwards, Petit Verdot has contributed 5% to the wine. The benchmarks for the Moss Wood style, however, remain the Cabernet Sauvignons made between 1974 and 1977.

60 bts. 1999 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon

125.00

“This is one of the best vintages of Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon and ranks alongside the great years from the property (1996, 1995, 1980 & 1975).”



Wine Maker Tasting Note: The wine has a deep brick red color and its condition is brilliant. On the nose it is very complex. The primary fruit aromas are the typically Moss Wood redcurrants and mulberries but with additional pretty aromas like cherry and red jubes. These lively aromas seem to be the product of the mild growing season. There are also notes of coffee beans and chocolate and an earthy or olive-like note. The oak is soft and well balanced, giving a toasty background.

On the palate, there are ripe redcurrant fruit flavours which are sweet and mouth filling, as well as some complex cassis and dark plum characters. The texture is soft and silky but the structure is tight, with both acid and tannin providing balance and length. On the finish, the oak flavours add length and the tannins are firm but not aggressive

In terms of style, it shares many of the characteristics of the 1979, although the seasons were a little different - 1979 finished in the rain but 1999 did not. On the strength of this, we are happy to recommend this wine for long-term cellaring and would suggest a minimum of ten years. Having just recently tried a bottle of the 1979, we are happy to report that it survived to 23 years old without any problems so we expect the 1999 to show the same endurance!

This is a beautifully elegant offering.

The 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon's opaque purple color accompanies a sweet perfume of smoke, black currants, and licorice. This full-bodied Cabernet possesses noticeable tannic structure yet gorgeously sweet as well as pure fruit, a layered texture, and a long, spicy finish. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2020

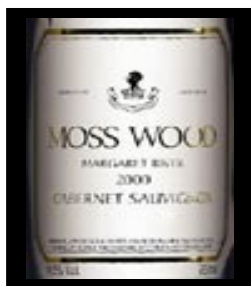
Wine Advocate #143 (Oct 2002) Robert Parker 93 points

-THE WINE ANNUAL 2005, Jeremy Oliver Rated 93 points

120 bts. Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon 2000

120.00

“The ripe 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon displays a style somewhere between a Pauillac and St.-Emilion.”



Wine Maker Tasting Note: The 2000 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon is wonderfully fragrant with redcurrant, spice and cedary oak perfumes; is soft, round and velvety textured; has ripe, rich and concentrated sweet cassis, mulberry and cedar flavours and a lovely fleshy finish. This is an elegant wine that has the tightness of structure, impressive weight, bold vibrant characters, and restrained, fine, silky tannins to ensure that it ages well, while having an approachability and a suppleness to make it appealing when young.

The ripe 2000 Cabernet Sauvignon displays a style somewhere between a **Pauillac** and **St.-Emilion**. A dense purple color is accompanied by aromas of black currants, tobacco, licorice, and French oak. Spicy and medium to full-bodied, with considerable depth and richness, it can be drunk now and over the next 10-15 years. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2018

Wine Advocate #148 (Aug 2003) Robert Parker 91 points

-THE WINE ANNUAL 2005, Jeremy Oliver Rated 93 points

- Review WINESTATE Annual 2005

**Winestate's Best Wines of 2004, Western Australia
Rated Four Stars**

36 bots. Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon 2001

135.00

“Although it's early days, the 2001 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon is arguably the greatest wine yet released from the vineyard.”



Wine Maker Tasting Note: Although it's early days, the 2001 Moss Wood Cabernet Sauvignon is arguably the greatest wine yet released from the vineyard. It has a fragrant nose of mulberries, blackberries and violets with a touch of earth and some spicy, cedary notes while the palate is deep, densely flavoured with ripe cassis and mulberry, complexed by chocolate and coffee bean characters. This is a profound, powerful red, opulent and concentrated with impressive weight showing fine, ripe tannins on a long, lingering finish. The oak and densely packed fruit are seamlessly integrated even at this stage.

There is no doubt the 2001 vintage in Margaret River was outstanding, as even the normal hard to please Keith Mugford is happy to admit. Spotlessly clean this is a gorgeous, silky wine flooded with redcurrant, cassis and blackcurrant fruit in a web of fine tannins. Elegance personified and screwcap guarantees a very long life

It is undeniable – the 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon blows away its siblings. The winery's flagship offering, it spends 22 months in French oak, of which 50% is new, and includes a small percentage of Merlot (5-6%) in the blend. A terrific Margaret River Cabernet, it boasts a dense ruby/purple color as well as a big bouquet of creme de cassis intermixed with licorice, vanilla, and spice box. Medium to full-bodied, layered, but subtle, it will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age, and keep for over a decade. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2014

Wine Advocate #155 (Oct 2002) Robert Parker 92 points

-THE WINE ANNUAL 2005, Jeremy Oliver Rated 97 points

- WINESTATE, September/October 2004 Rated 4 1/2 stars.

- James Halliday Top 100

**The Weekend Australian, 20-21 November 2004
Rated 96 points**