

WINTER 2017



BROWN HILL  
MARGARET RIVER

# Welcome Drinks

*Have you ever visited a winery in action? At every stage of the winemaking year, a winery and its vineyards play host to a hive of activity.*

From harvest time, when Brown Hill's backpackers handpick from the vines that are full with ripe fruit, hand-sort the berries when they reach the winery, through to the bottling phase, the winemaking process involves many people and many skills, and we're all at the whim of Mother Nature.

Right about now we kick off mid-year vine pruning before they start to grow and gain shape. Then we bottle 2017 whites, which you'll see on our shelves and online later in the year and early 2018. The 2017 reds are undergoing the alchemy of fermentation and maturation in barrel.

What we're super excited about is a very special Margaret River event. In collaboration with Pullman Bunker Bay Resort, Brown Hill is hosting a dinner on Saturday 20 May at this beautiful ocean-side location. Read on for more or visit [www.brownhillstate.com.au/WineDinners](http://www.brownhillstate.com.au/WineDinners).

For those who are yet to join one of Brown Hill's wine clubs, now is the time, as all wine club members receive advance notice of our wine dinners, first allocation of new releases and vintages, and wine automatically shipped to your door every quarter. Sign up to our Signature Wine Club on the back page or visit our website for more information about our wine club tiers.



*Nathan Bailey*

All the best,  
Nathan Bailey



*Left: Brown Hill's vineyard at the back of the winery; right, join one of Brown Hill's Wine Clubs to enjoy new releases such as the Golden Horseshoe Chardonnay and the Bill Bailey Shiraz Cabernet.*

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# A WORD OF WINE ADVICE

Have you ever wondered about the flavour profile of Cabernet Sauvignon? The typical aromas of Shiraz? Here, we lift the lid on the three major red varieties grown at Brown Hill.

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## SHIRAZ

Outside Australia, Shiraz is referred to as Syrah. Until the 1980s, Australians called it Hermitage. DNA studies stamp its origins as the Rhône Valley. James Busby brought this thick-skinned variety to Australia in 1832, and since then, it has flourished in our hot, dry climate, holding the title as our most planted variety. Shiraz can produce medium- to full-bodied wines with high tannin levels. Aromas range from violet and dark berries to chocolate, espresso and black pepper. Flavours span the blackberry, mint and black pepper spectrum in moderate climates, to licorice, anise and earthy leather in

warmer climates with soft tannins and jammy fruit. Shiraz's acidity and tannin levels allow the wine to age 10+ years.



## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

This grape variety is a relatively new kid on the block, a happy accident from a Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc crossing in southwestern France in the 17th century. It's an incredibly hardy variety that thrives in many Aussie regions and has become a popular blending partner for its red cousin, Shiraz. Like Shiraz, this variety displays high acid and tannin levels. Its aromas vary from blackcurrant, mint and cedar to black cherry, olives, eucalyptus and menthol. Its flavour profile is influenced by climate, soil and oak treatment, but broadly ranges from robust blackcurrant,

cassis and mulberry characteristics to herbal, minty, chocolatey, earthy notes, and that well-loved term, "cigar box".



## MERLOT

Hailing from France's Bordeaux region, Merlot is known for its super powers as a blending partner, joining forces with varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec to provide body and softness. When produced on its own, Merlot is a soft, velvety and supple wine with distinctive aromas and flavours of plums and dark berries, mint and cassis, and chocolate, espresso and vanilla. Brown Hill's Reserve Croesus is a straight Merlot, and we also blend Merlot into three other wines – the Trafalgar, the Great Boulder and the Perseverance – as its

marriage with other varieties makes it a highly appealing agent for aroma, flavour and structure enhancements.



# The Brown Hill Village

## HAYDN'S HERALD

Assistant Winemaker Haydn Millard debunks myths surrounding the enjoyment of wine.

## OLDER WINE IS BETTER WINE

My grandfather asked me to go through his wines to find those that should be consumed now or aged longer. Sadly many of his had been aged too long. Up to a point, wines develop complexity and become softer on the palate, but after too long they lose flavour and the subtle nuances that make them so wonderful. Generally, young wines are fruity and vibrant while older wines are savoury, earthy and smooth. Ask the producer how long their wines should be kept.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF WINE LEGS

"Check out those legs" – sounds a little forward until you see everyone staring at a wine glass. While the streaks running down the inside of a glass look pretty, they aren't indicative of wine quality. This is known as the "Marangoni effect" and is a result of the viscosity of the wine against the smoothness of the glass. What wine legs tell us is that a wine has a high level of alcohol, a higher level of sweetness, or a little of both.

## ALLOWING WINE TO BREATHE

Have you seen a wine bottle left on the table to "breathe"? The reality is that many wines, particularly full-bodied reds and whites as well as aged wines, seem more aromatic and flavoursome after being exposed to air. But simply letting an open bottle stand won't put enough oxygen in contact with the wine to have any benefit. Instead, try pouring the wine into your glass and standing it for a few minutes before drinking.

## IS THERE A RIGHT AND A WRONG WAY TO ENJOY WINE?

No! Whether you like strawberries in Champagne, ice in Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz served as sangria or Muscat on ice-cream, you're never wrong. While there are guidelines to enjoy a wine as the winemaker intended, it's more important to form memories of time with great friends and your wine as you like it.



## BROWN HILL'S INNER CIRCLE

Nathan Bailey, Winemaker

How did Nathan come to be a winemaker?

In his early years, Nathan studied commerce at university, then purchased a milk delivery business, which grew into several businesses. At that time, Nathan's parents Jim and Gwen moved south and planted two hectares of grapes in Margaret River. When they asked Nathan to jointly set up the winery, he agreed. The first vintage was ready in 2001, so Nathan and his family moved to Margaret River and the rest is winemaking history.

What is Nathan's favourite variety to drink?

Cabernet Sauvignon

What is Nathan's favourite Brown Hill wine?

Bill Bailey Shiraz Cabernet

Apart from Brown Hill, which other wineries does Nathan enjoy?

Cape Mentelle, Leeuwin Estate, Windows Estate

Does Nathan enjoy down-time and what does he do?

Fishing, cycling, vegetable gardening, reading, coaching his children's sport.



# Star Wine

## 2014 FIMISTON RESERVE SHIRAZ

Aromas of ripe cherry and blackberry fruit are reinforced by black pepper and dark chocolate. The sophisticated palate of plum and cherry flavours sit over soft, velvety tannins. The balance is superb – substantial yet restrained in style.

*Aromas of the Fimiston:*

plum, blackberries, spice and pepper

*Taste profile of the Fimiston:*

ripe plums, blackberries, mixed spice with dark chocolate and vanilla notes



## FIMISTON MATCH: CHOCOLATE BEEF STEW

The idea of incorporating a rich ingredient such as chocolate into a savoury dish like a beef stew might sound rather strange but we like to live dangerously, so we tried this recipe, including the Fimiston Shiraz as an ingredient and as the matched wine, and the results were amazing!



¼ cup olive oil  
1.5kg beef shin or beef chuck, cut into bite-sized pieces  
2 brown onions, chopped finely  
1 carrot, chopped finely  
1 celery stalk, chopped finely  
2 garlic cloves, chopped finely  
160ml red wine, preferably Fimiston Reserve Shiraz  
¼ cup red wine vinegar  
2 bay leaves  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
500ml beef stock  
50g dark chocolate, broken into pieces  
fresh parsley, chopped, to serve  
mashed potato, to serve

1. Place a large casserole pot over medium heat, then add a tablespoon of oil and brown beef in batches. Set aside. Reduce heat to low and cook onions, carrot, celery and garlic until soft and fragrant, about 5-8 minutes.
2. Increase heat to medium, then return beef to pot. Add wine and vinegar, then cook for 5 minutes. Add bay leaves, cinnamon, nutmeg and beef stock, then cook over low to medium heat with lid on for 1.5 hours.
3. Melt chocolate over a double boiler or in microwave. Add 1 tablespoon of stew liquid to melted chocolate, then stir. Add another 3-4 tablespoons until chocolate has incorporated into liquid without seizing. Add chocolate mixture to pot, then simmer for another 30 minutes and season to taste.
4. Scatter over parsley, serve with mashed potato and a glass of Brown Hill's Fimiston Reserve Shiraz.

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# WHAT'S ON IN MARGARET RIVER?

Here's your guide to what's happening in our gorgeous region over the winter season.

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## BROWN HILL @ BUNKER BAY DINNER

**20 May** | Meet Brown Hill's Winemaker Nathan Bailey and Assistant Winemaker Haydn Millard at beautiful Bunker Bay. The Pullman Resort is offering attendees discounted accommodation for the weekend as well. Visit Brown Hill's website for details.

## JAZZ BY THE BAY

**2-5 June** | Swing, scat and jive your way through the June long weekend at the Jazz by the Bay festival, which includes more than 30 performances in 15 venues over three days.

## READERS & WRITERS FESTIVAL

**3-6 June** | Enjoy this storytelling extravaganza featuring author events, interviews, signings and workshops with 50 acclaimed writers and presenters in Margaret River. The theme for 2017 is "Where Stories Come Alive".

## SOUTHWEST MUDFEST

**1 July** | Like getting dirty? Join fellow mud-lovers at Bootleg Brewery in Busselton for a day of fun. Choose from the Dirty Dozen 12km obstacle course, Mud Mayhem 5km course or the 1km Kids Course.

## NANNUP FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

**17-20 August** | This festival features more than 100 garden and craft stalls, landscape trends and stunning open garden displays. There's a dedicated children's area, garden talks, demonstrations and floral displays in the Great Hall of Flowers.

## CINEFEST OZ FILM FESTIVAL

**23-27 August** | The 10th annual CinefestOZ Film Festival is set in Busselton, Bunbury and Margaret River, and premieres feature films and events in the region's cinemas, wineries, boutique breweries, small bars and galleries.

## MARGARET RIVER BACKYARD BREWING TOURNAMENT

**Ends 16 July** | Fancy yourself a craft beer maker? Enter your brew into the Backyard Brewing Tournament for the chance to have your beer brewed professionally at Brewhouse Margaret River and sold on tap. Registration closes end of June; beers must be submitted by 16 July.



# Brown Hill's Prospector's Range

The Prospector's Range is your taste of Brown Hill's distinctive Margaret River style in accessible and everyday wines.



## 2016 Charlotte Sauvignon Blanc

This superbly aromatic Sauvignon Blanc is all peach and passionfruit on the nose; grapefruit on the palate with a flinty mineral backbone leads to a crisp, citrusy finish.

Drink: now to 2020  
Single price: \$21 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$18 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



## 2016 Lakeview Sauvignon Blanc Semillon

This refreshing white blend is pale green apple in colour with typical Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon aromas on the nose. The palate displays slightly grassy notes with citrus and stone fruit flavours balanced by a gentle acid backbone.

Drink: now to 2020  
Single price: \$21 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$18 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



## 2014 Autumn Mist Late Harvest

The fruit for this Sauvignon Blanc Semillon blend is picked late, resulting in a sweeter taste profile on the palate and a lush mouthfeel that works beautifully with passionfruit and lemon tart or a cheese platter with dates and figs.

Drink: now to 2018  
Single price: \$21 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$18 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



## 2016 Morning Star Dry Light Red

This delightfully dry rosé is bright crimson in colour with cherry and strawberry aromas to match. Made from Shiraz and Cabernet, the wine's palate is berry dominant with a spice kick to bring it to life, ending with a smooth, dry and crisp sign-off.

Drink: now to 2020  
Single price: \$21 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$18 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



NEW  
RELEASE

### 2016 Desert Rose Light Red (slightly sweet)

This refreshing light red is a blend of Shiraz and Cabernet grapes with a slightly sweet flavour profile. Its magenta colour is a precursor to the ripe sweet berries on the palate, which lead to a soft acid finish. Team it with dried fruit after a wintry dinner.

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Drink: now to 2020  
Single price: \$21 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$18 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



NEW  
RELEASE

### 2014 Chaffers Shiraz

The perfumed aromas of this Shiraz span the full gamut of dark berries, including blackberries and red currants. Savoury spices, licorice and cherry dominate the palate, followed by black pepper in a long, smooth and supple ending.

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Drink: now to 2024  
Single price: \$22 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$19 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



NEW  
RELEASE

### 2014 Hannans Cabernet Sauvignon

This is classic Margaret River Cabernet at its best – aromas of dark berries, eucalyptus and mint, dark plum and cherry flavours, fine chalky tannins leading to a lovely long palate with a lingering aftertaste. A superb winter red.

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Drink: now to 2024  
Single price: \$22 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$19 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen



NEW  
RELEASE

### 2014 Trafalgar Cabernet Merlot

Robust Cabernet meets soft and supple Merlot in this elegant red blend. It's a rich wine but is incredibly approachable, displaying earthy black and redcurrant notes, balanced oak and ripe tannins.

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Drink: now to 2024  
Single price: \$22 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$19 per bottle  
SAVE: \$36 per dozen

# Brown Hill's Reserve Range

The Reserve Range represents Brown Hill's wines of elegance – they are made with an intention to age but also with the finesse and sophistication to be enjoyed now.



## 2015 Golden Horseshoe Reserve Chardonnay

This Chardonnay is the only white in our Reserve collection. Oak is used in its winemaking journey but it's not dominant, rather nectarine, peach and pear flavours soar above a thin layer of butter and a dollop of quince.

*James Halliday, 93 points, Australian Wine Companion 2017*

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Drink: now to 2025  
Single price: \$35 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$30 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen



## 2014 Fimiston Reserve Shiraz

Ripe cherry and blackberry aromas are reinforced by black pepper and dark chocolate. The sophisticated palate of plum and cherry sits over soft, velvety tannins. The balance is superb – substantial yet restrained in style.

*James Halliday, 94 points, Australian Wine Companion 2017*

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Drink: now to 2024  
Single price: \$35 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$30 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen



## 2013 Ivanhoe Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

Aromas span the blackcurrant, violet and mint spectrum. The palate displays plums, cassis, chocolate and cedar thanks to the maturation in French oak. Finishes soft and silky with power and length.

*James Halliday, 95 points, Australian Wine Companion 2017*

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Drink: now to 2023  
Single price: \$35 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$30 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen



## 2012 Croesus Reserve Merlot

This elegant Merlot reveals aromas of plums and violets, then its palate displays rich flavours of mulberries, blueberries, plums, leather and spices. It's a smooth operator, from first sniff to final aftertaste.

*James Halliday, 91 points, Australian Wine Companion 2015*

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Drink: now to 2022  
Single price: \$35 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$30 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen

# Brown Hill's Signature Range

Brown Hill's Signature wines cannot be purchased outside the winery – they are our flagship reds that represent the ultimate in winemaking excellence.



NEW  
RELEASE

## 2013 Great Boulder Cabernet Shiraz Merlot Malbec

This multifaceted Margaret River blend showcases four varieties, culminating in a flavour profile of black cherry, mulberry, dark chocolate, black pepper and spice overtones.

Ray Jordan, 95 points,  
*The West Australian Wine Guide 2016*

Drink: now to 2023  
Single price: \$40 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$35 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen



NEW  
RELEASE

## 2012 Perseverance Cabernet Merlot

This wine has aged quietly for years in Brown Hill's climate-controlled cellars. Its rich flavours of chocolate, vanilla and ripe plum glide over a layer of balanced oak and fine tannins to finish with length and purpose.

Ray Jordan, 95 points,  
*The West Australian Wine Guide 2015*

Drink: now to 2022  
Single price: \$50  
Dozen price: \$45 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen



TROPHY  
WINNER

NEW  
RELEASE

## 2013 Bill Bailey Shiraz Cabernet

There's a lovely marriage between the ripe blackcurrant flavours of the Cabernet component and the savoury earthy characters of the Shiraz. The palate is all black pepper, ripe berry fruits and soft tannins.

Ray Jordan, 96 points, Best of The West 2016  
*Trophy, The West Australian Wine Guide 2016*

Drink: now to 2023  
Single price: \$60 per bottle  
Dozen price: \$55 per bottle  
SAVE: \$60 per dozen

## JOIN OUR SIGNATURE WINE CLUB

Have you thought of joining one of Brown Hill's Wine Clubs? Membership comes with plenty of benefits. One is the reassurance of delivery of new-vintage wines as they are released; two is the first offer of tickets to exclusive Brown Hill wine dinners, tastings and special events.

*Signature Wine Club members receive quarterly shipments, which feature one bottle each of:*

- *Bill Bailey Shiraz Cabernet*
- *Perseverance Cabernet Merlot*
- *Great Boulder Cabernet Shiraz Merlot Malbec*

Cost is \$140 per quarter including free delivery Australia wide – see order form on reverse side of this newsletter to lock in your Signature membership.

