



PLANTAGENET
WINES
GREAT SOUTHERN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PLANTAGENET WINES

Great Southern, Western Australia



Cath Oates

“No one in the Great Southern region of Western Australia delivers better value with crisp, vibrant wines.”

Wine Spectator (July 2012)

FOUNDED: 1968

WINEMAKER: Cath Oates

SIZE: 320 acres

HARVEST: Mid-February to mid-April

CLIMATE: Cool, continental

WEBSITE: www.plantagenetwines.com



Rocky Horror Vineyard where Bordeaux and Burgundy varietals thrive



SOILS: Marri soils, lateritic gravelly/sandy loams with granite rock protrusions

ANNUAL RAINFALL: 29 inches (11 inches in growing season)

VARIETIES PLANTED: Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Riesling, Cabernet Franc, Sangiovese, Viognier.

PROFILE: An historic producer, Plantagenet Wines was the first winery to be established in Western Australia's Great Southern wine region, an expansive area nestled into the state's rugged south west corner. Named after the local Shire of Plantagenet, the winery was founded in 1968 when English immigrant Tony Smith identified the potential of these wild and remote lands by planting vines on his Mount Barker property. His initial plantings impressed, producing Rhône-style Shirazes and stylish Cabernet Sauvignons. These were soon joined by Pinot Noir, Riesling and Chardonnay, aromatic varieties that would thrive in the cool, continental climate. From these humble beginnings, the Great Southern appellation has been further divided into five sub-regions, with Plantagenet Wines remaining a driving force in establishing this area as a distinctive, quality-focused Australian wine region.

VITICULTURE: The Great Southern looms large on the West Australian landscape – a windswept, pristine corner of the earth that is dotted with massive granite outcrops, lonely sheep farms and a sprinkling of vineyards. It is also a challenging, cool-climate region that demands a toughness from those looking to harness the viticulture here. Despite these challenges, Plantagenet has established itself as one of the region's leading producers, with a quality-driven philosophy centered on their 320 acres of estate vineyards. The oldest of these, the Bouverie vineyard, is comprised of 40-year-old Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon vines planted on north facing slopes of deep gravel loam. Mature Riesling and Chardonnay vines thrive on the Wyjup Vineyard, with its deep sandy/gravel loam, while the Rocky Horror vineyards support numerous Bordeaux and Burgundy varietals on their inhospitable, rocky soils. The youngest, the Rosetta vineyard, is best suited to Merlot and aromatic whites with its heavy clay loams and westerly aspect. It is this rich tapestry of landscapes and soils in a harsh and variable climate that provides Plantagenet with fruit of such distinct character.



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THE WINES

Plantagenet have mastered the Great Southern's rugged, cool climate, producing wines that are widely recognized as among the region's top examples: Rieslings of laser-like purity, energetic Shiraz with spice and vibrant berry characters, and long living, statuesque Cabernets.



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PLANTAGENET ESTATE WINES:

Riesling, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz

Sourced from the oldest of Plantagenet's low-yielding, estate vineyards, these are wines of class and finesse that are built for cellaring. The collection boasts one of the region's top Rieslings, and arguably one of Western Australia's most favored cool-climate Shirazes.

OMRAH WINES:

Sauvignon Blanc, Unoaked Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Shiraz

Named after the luxurious ocean liner, SS Omrah, which sailed out of the coastal town of Albany for two decades in the 1900's, ferrying settlers and soldiers to and from Western Australia's shores. This range of wines represents unequalled value from Plantagenet's estate vineyards, and premium vineyards in the south west.

HAZARD HILL WINES:

Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz

This pigeon pair of Shiraz and Semillon Sauvignon Blanc are comprised of fruit sourced from cool-climate vineyards throughout Western Australia's south west wine growing regions, including the Great Southern, Pemberton, Blackwood and Geographe sub-regions.

WINEMAKING: Be it fluke or intuition, Tony Smith laid a solid foundation for Plantagenet by selecting varietals that would thrive in the Great Southern's cool climate and granite-laden soils. He was a world away from the nearest established vineyards of the far eastern states, and the wines mirrored the region's geographic and climatic distinctiveness, standing tall with a poise and independence inherent to the land. Plantagenet has continued to harness this potential with a philosophy that honors pure expression of terroir in their wines. Seasoned Winemaker John Durham produces aromatic whites that are austere and minerally with crisp acidity and fragrant, floral notes. The reds are spicy, elegant and statuesque, a far cry from the blockbusters generally associated with Australia. While quality French oak and modern winemaking techniques are a given, it is the unique expression of the land that is nurtured, ensuring these wines have an inimitable voice in the roar of Australian wine.



The cool, misty vineyards of the Great Southern



Cath Oates, Plantagenet Wines Head Winemaker



Plantagenet's 40-year-old Wyjup Vineyard