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Vasse Felix has been named as a 'Top 100' international winery by leading USA magazine, Wine & Spirits.

The recognition for Margaret River's founding vineyard and winery follows the achievement of several top wine scores across the Vasse Felix range.

The Wine & Spirits panel and critics blind taste more than 10,000 international wines each year, of which the most consistent, quality performers are included within the Top 100.

Vasse Felix is one of six Australian wineries to be included in the 2012 Wine & Spirits list.

"We recognise brands with the most consistent performance and the highest scores in our tastings as our Top 100 Wineries of the Year. Vasse Felix's range of exceptional wines makes it a great ambassador for Margaret River," said Wine & Spirits Editor, Josh Greene.

In recent years, under the guidance of CEO Paul Holmes à Court and Chief Winemaker Virginia Willcock, the focus at Vasse Felix has been refined to only Margaret River's best performing varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon blends.

This accolade is testament to both the team's dedication and a series of great vintages in Margaret River since 2007.

"At Vasse Felix we have been working closely with our environment and growing our understanding of the intricate clonal and site influences within our vineyards. In the winery we have been fine-tuning our treatment of each fruit parcel in respect of these influences, to best express its individuality. It's about embracing the distinct regional qualities of our varieties," said Vasse Felix Chief Winemaker, Virginia Willcock.

"With our Chardonnay, for example, we've been picking the fruit earlier, based upon freshness and acidity to preserve its vibrant, primary fruit flavours and structure. We are then fermenting with only natural yeast and cloudy juice, to allow a greater depth of environmental character within the wines. Margaret River has provided us several great vintages to work with," Willcock continued.

Within the last decade, significant investment has been made in the Vasse Felix vineyard holdings, with the expansion of the original Wilyabrup Vineyard in 2006, and the acquirement of a vineyard in Karridale (southern Margaret River) in 2010. These vines are at different stages and are proving themselves as exciting complements to the historic Vasse Felix vines.

2012 marks the 45th year since the first vines were planted at Vasse Felix by founder Dr Tom Cullity in August, 1967.

### **Accolades Continue for the Vasse Felix Restaurant**

The Vasse Felix Restaurant has received its own acclaim, having been announced as 'Regional Restaurant of the Year' at The West Australian Good Food Guide Awards. The Restaurant was also listed as the number one Regional Restaurant in WA and awarded a coveted 'Star' rating by Gourmet Traveller Magazine in its 2013 Restaurant Guide.

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*Planted in 1967, Vasse Felix was the first vineyard and winery established in Margaret River.*

*Vasse Felix makes a range of Cabernet Sauvignons, Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon blends.*

*The wines are distributed in Australia by Samuel Smith & Son and around the world by Negociants International.*

*For more information about Vasse Felix or to arrange interviews please contact*

*Emily Sharland on +61 427 858 045 or email [emily.sharland@vassefelix.com.au](mailto:emily.sharland@vassefelix.com.au)*