



## 2020 Vintage Report

Vintage 2020 is shaping up to be a year for wines of exceptional quality from the Geographe Wine Region. It is a year like no other in so many different ways.

December saw some of our hottest days ever, our warmest nights and driest times since 2008. The season started considerably earlier than usual with vineyards in the north of the region starting harvest in the last week of January, up to 3 weeks earlier than normal. It saw many of our regions white varieties harvested in quick succession throughout February, without any drop in quality, making for a busy time for wineries. A slight cooling off in March and some sporadic rain events slowed down reds to ripen on a more usual schedule, with the last of the regions red varietals harvested just after Easter.

Overall winemakers across the region are pleased with the quality of both the whites and reds. Kim Horton, Willow Bridge winemaker, has advised they are very happy with their Grenache, the last of their reds to be picked in April.

*“The quality has been pleasing with wines showing purity of fruit, bright and fresh flavours and deep, dark colours”, he said.*

Unlike 2019, the bird pressure was absent across the region. The local Marri trees were in full blossom at the right time, keeping our feathered friends occupied elsewhere. 2020 yields have been similar to that of the 2019 vintage.

As harvests came to an end in the region the unfolding of the Corona virus (Covid 19) crisis was starting to have its impact on our cellar door operations across the region. By the end of March many of our regions cellar doors had closed for onsite trading, focusing their energies in the online space and direct to customer.

As a wine industry we feel very fortunate to be recognised as an essential industry by the Australian Government. This recognition has allowed our businesses to complete harvests, transport and crush the grapes that will make vintage 2020 for the Geographe Wine Region.

With lots of bigger issues at play in the industry and country at the present, we hope all members of the community stay well and safe.

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Contacts Pippa Nielsen (Chair) – 0418 941 842

Wayne Hammond (Vice Chair) – 0408 711 417

*Where everything connects*