

Jar o'
juice

SIDEKICK CAFE

The paint was still drying on the walls when we hit Margaret's newest café. There's a good energy and great coffee. Service is delivered by a relaxed team that's excited to be here. Some of the pastry snacks are very good.

Sidekick Cafe
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Cloudburst

If you are hooking along Cave's Road and notice a small patch of close-planted vines, you could be forgiven for thinking that someone from the hallowed turf of Burgundy has set up some wild and wacky venture in the heart of some of the best vineyard-growing land in Margaret's. Closer inspection reveals not some artisanal Gaelic gent with oversize proboscis lovingly tending his vines but none other than film director from the States, Will Berliner.

How the hell Will got here and is doing what he is doing is a long story that I'm not going to tell. But I will tell you that his wines are exciting. The intense manual labour employed in the vineyard ensures that the resultant wines have real character and soul.

The 2012 Chardonnay has a touch of reduction on the nose but breathes up quickly to reveal some butter-scotch, almond meal, citrus and mineral. It has good shape and a fruit-sweet heart. The finish is oh so long. The 2011 Cabernet is blended with 7% Malbec. It is deliciously perfumed with sweet cassis fruit and violet notes. There are some savoury things playing just below the flesh and wonderfully seasoned high-quality oak imparting a suggestion of gingerbread. It is pretty with a velvety texture and a lick of mineral to the finish. The 2012 Cabernet is also very velvety. It has black cherry and cassis fruits and something that tastes of Irish Moss lozenges. It is round and dense with a hint of iodine and other savoury nuances. There are only 422 bottles of the first run of a straight Malbec and this 2012 is a beauty. It is full and creamy, yet detailed. There are aromas of liquorice, five-spice, dried flowers, black pepper and sweet cherry. It is dense and its length of flavour is excellent.

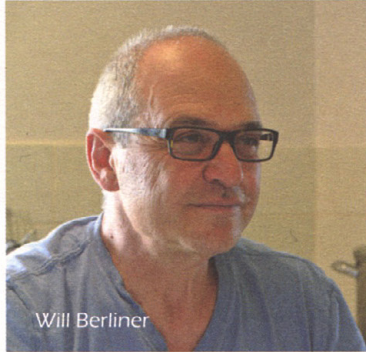
I suspect the locals may think that Will dropped in from out of space during the last cloudburst, such is the ambition of his project. But watch this space. The wines are the real deal.

www.cloudburstwine.com





Close-planted vines



Will Berliner

CLOUDBURST