

Excerpts from
Winestein: How the west was won with cabernet
(and a \$28 bottle)

By: David Prestipino

Praise has flowed thick and fast for West Australian's premier wine region in recent years but Margaret River has now been given an unmatched stamp of approval from the world's most powerful voice in wine [...]

[...] Halliday's annual Wine Companion released earlier this year all but cemented Margaret River as Australia's most important wine region.

While producing only 5 per cent of Australia's premium wine, Margaret River is responsible for about 20 per cent of premium sales. New data last month showed the region accounted for 66 per cent of bottled wine exports from WA and 84 per cent of premium exports, with a 23 per cent increase into the lucrative and growing Chinese market.

It would be fair to say Margaret River has become the most important wine region in the country, and the one that best mirrors the famed Bordeaux region because of its proximity to the ocean (and subsequent maritime climate) and fantastic terroir.

It has also had fruitful help from the "wine gods" ... recording consecutive excellent vintages since 2007, a blessing the rest of Australia is finding hard to swallow.

It was WA research scientist Dr John Gladstones who earmarked Margaret River as a prime grape-growing region in a 1965 research paper for the Agriculture Department [...]



[...] When it comes to the new kids on the block in the west, no one has made more of a splash than Californian Will Berliner's fully organic venture Cloudburst in Margaret River.

With wines starting at \$200 you might wonder why but his biodynamic wines are truly ethereal and made with unblinking passion, challenging neighbours Moss Wood and Cullen as the very best in the land.