

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**



**HOWARD PARK WINES**  
MARGARET RIVER & GREAT SOUTHERN

### **Best Barrels Merlot - Best of Class**

The 2003 Howard Park Best Barrels Merlot was awarded a gold medal and the accolade of 'the best wine of its class' at the 2004 Margaret River Wine Show.

Held between the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December the annual competition aims to provide a snapshot of wines that fall in the Margaret River Geographical Indication. Judges were selected from across Australia and included Brian Croser, Tim White, Stephen Pannell and Louisa Rose.

The 2003 Howard Park Best Barrels Merlot is only the second vintage ever released. The wine is only ever produced from exceptional vintages, the first being 1995.

'The Best Barrels Merlot is made from grapes sourced from the top twenty rows in station one of the Leston Vineyard in Margaret River. The vineyard has received particular attention including severe pruning, shoot thinning, leaf plucking for canopy management and partial root drying', said Vineyard Manager, David Burch.

Produced in very limited quantities the Best Barrels Merlot is available for \$75/bottle exclusively to Howard Park mail order customers, Margaret River and Denmark Cellar Doors and selected specialist retailers.

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