

# life by the drop

## New star

**Mandoon Estate may not be a well-known winery yet, but watch this space.**

Established by the Erceg family in 2009 on the historical Roe property in Caversham, Mandoon Estate winery was built in the same year and the first vintage was celebrated in 2010 under the deft talents of winemaker Ryan Sudano, who had a previous successful stint at Western Range in Chittering.

A couple of Mandoon wines have made it to our tasting panel and we have been very impressed and when wine show results are examined, we understand why. Mandoon has won 10 trophies and 23 gold medals in wine shows this year, including the trophy for the most successful WA exhibitor (under 300 tonne) and the trophy for the most successful WA exhibitor (overall) in the Perth Royal Wine Show, a remarkable achievement for such a new and small winery. Ryan is circumspect about the wines he makes. He allows the grapes to do the talking and uses rudimentary techniques, albeit with the newest of equipment, to convert fruit into beautifully balanced wines. The grapes are harvested from old vines off the estate property, the Margaret River Research Station where Mandoon has an extended lease and from other sites in WA that excite him. Phone 9274 4346 for directions before visiting the estate because the entrance

off Reid Highway is as hard to find as a bottle of wine in a wowser's cupboard.

## Mandoon 2013 Verdelho

Harvested off the home property, this wine has the Swan Valley indelibly stamped in it. It is rich with spice and stone fruit, has great texture and is dry all the way to a satisfying finish. Try with belly of pork.

🍷 **Score 17.5. \$20**



## Mandoon 2011 Old Vine Grenache

Doubt you'd find a better grenache from the Swan. This is fleshy and mouth filling with a concentration of dark fruits, silky tannins and a firm drying finish. Smashing with a thick char-grilled rib eye.

🍷 **Score 17.5. \$22**



## Mandoon 2010 Research Station Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon

A strong show performer, this Margaret River cabernet has power yet elegance, with blackcurrant, olive, ripe tannins, well-meshed oak and grippy finish. Brilliant with a slow-roasted shoulder of lamb.

🍷 **Score 18.5. \$45**



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