Michael Kerrigan

Winemaker

The new owner/winemaker of Hay Shed Hill has come with a long history of making some of the most respected wines in Australia. Twelve years as the Winemaker of Howard Park and Madfish Wines has put Michael Kerrigan in the company of the most respected winemakers in the country. It was a circuitous route to winemaking for Michael; "I was a radiographer for many years but had a passion for wine but never really thought I could actually do it as a job!"

Leith Pavlinovich, Michael's wife, from the traditional grape growing and winemaking Swan Valley in Western Australia encouraged – or lets say pushed Michael into applying for entry into Roseworthy College in South Australia; the premier wine education establishment in Australia. Michael excelled at Roseworthy and was Dux of the year winning virtually all the academic awards on offer. "It is amazing what you can do when you are interested in something".

Michael was offered the position of Assistant Winemaker at Howard Park in 1994, and quickly ascended to be Chief Winemaker by 1999, a position he held until his departure in late 2006 to take up ownership of Hay Shed Hill. "Howard Park allowed me a marvellous opportunity to look at such a wide range of fruit from all over Western Australia and make wine across all price points." In his time at Howard Park Michael received numerous accolades for the wines including nomination for Qantas Winemaker of the Year in 2003.

The opportunity to get involved with Hay Shed Hill was one that Michael could not let pass. "I knew the vineyard and always coveted the fruit, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to take ownership in a really classic old Margaret River vineyard in the elite of Margaret River vineyards but one which, for various reasons, had not quite realized it's potential." "I am so excited to be involved as winemaker, partner in the Hay Shed Hill vineyard and wines, we are going to take this place where it has not been before – look out we are going to make some top class wines."