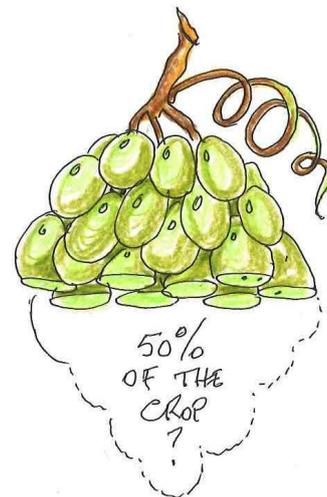


Finally vintage no.19 is finished. Picked, fermented, in oak or ready to bottle. What a vintage it was!!!! The driest year we have ever had and the coolest summer ever. The lowest yield ever, the most frustrating ever and for us the prospect of having half the wine we need. That sounds like "FARMER TALK". The truth is that the 50% reduction in our crop has led to some sensationally good wines and the big crop from 2018 has produced reds that will be bottled in September and will impress. We have had to reduce the number of our Rieslings to:

MAGPIE HILL 2019 FOR RELEASE JULY 1.

SINGLE VINEYARD 2019 FOR RELEASE JULY 1.

Newsletter customers will get first priority, so order **NOW** if you want some.



### THE MORRISSEY..UPDATE.

Our first vintage of The Morrissey has been well received at the Cellar and also at wine retailers, and it was included in James Halliday's Top Cellaring wines in his Autumn Magazine...with a score of 96. We were also invited to be part of a special tasting for Halliday's customers at the Mercedes Club in Melbourne in June. We know it is a lovely wine, but it eventually is the decision of the public who taste it. We are delighted that they are voting with their credit cards.

### SELLING THE VINEYARD.

We have suggested for a long time that our beautiful vineyard will be sold...and finally the time has "really" come. We have had interest from several prospective buyers including:

A young WA winemaker and his wife who have tried hard (so far without success) to obtain finance...Maybe there is a possible backer out there?

It would be nice to find a buyer who would continue the aim of producing small crops of high quality fruit and turning them into small batches of super premium wines. Although most vineyard owners spend time and money looking for the perfect block, there is always an element of luck and in the case of Duke's Vineyard we have had a lot of luck and have a proven block that consistently produces beautiful wine. We will keep you posted.

Duke and Hilde have purchased their perfect block in Albany and plan to start building the day after they sell the Vineyard. The new home will be designed for oldies and will include the biggest cellar in Albany ... (Big enough to hold a forklift?). Hopefully stocked with something half decent. Albany King George whiting will suddenly need to be careful.

### DATES AND SNIPPETS

JULY 14 - Perth tasting at Nedlands Rugby Club...New Rieslings

JUNE 28 - Old Bridge Cellars Fremantle tasting Duke's wines.

OCT 16 - A BLOOMING LONG LUNCH at Duke's as part of The Bloom Festival in the Great Southern, featuring food by CULCHA KITCHEN. **Book now \$110 pp.**

Magpie Hill Riesling in list of James Halliday's "CULT WINES YOU MUST BUY"

SEPTEMBER - SOUTHERN ART AND CRAFT TRAIL. Hilde's showing her art for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

## THE TROUT DROUGHT

Trout are funny fish that normally live in streams  
And people try to catch them ...even in their dreams  
But farmers don't have the streams... It's mostly sheep and lambs  
And all the water that they need is stored in great big dams.

But trout are great adaptors and what they need is feed  
And a great big pool to live in is very good indeed  
So into our best storage dam two hundred trout released  
A bit of food and we'll soon see their length and weight increased

We bought the finest food that trout all love to eat  
And all the flying insects made the diet quite complete.  
We watched them grow and waited til they reached an eating weight  
Then checked our fishing tackle and produced the perfect bait

The line was cast let the game begin we waited for the bite.  
We cast again and waited and still no trout in sight  
We decided that our timing perhaps was the reason why  
So came back in the evening and tried a handmade fly

No sign of fish no splash was there to show that they survived  
Or did they know that we were there and danger had arrived.  
We fished at dawn and through the night and even in the rain  
And next day changed our bait as well and did it all again

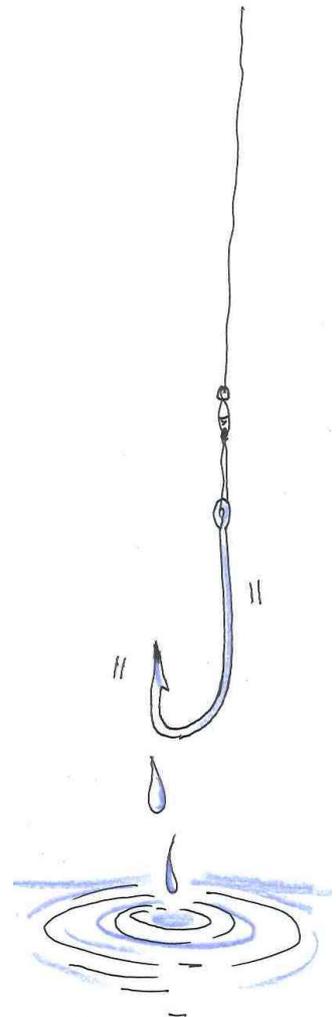
We all fancy that we're very smart so we put our brains together  
To prove that we were smartest in this human-trout endeavour  
We tried them with the trout food that they thrived on all their lives  
And even tried some special mince with garlic and some chives

We dreamed up strange concoctions to try to catch some dinner  
And the brains of four smart people would surely be the winner.  
But still no trout to grill or smoke, 'twas all to no avail.  
We never see a single sign of splash or fin or scale.

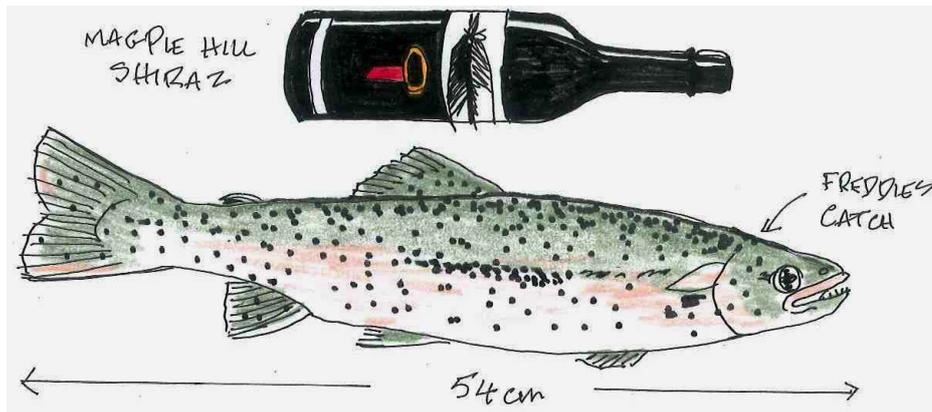
Experts came from miles around with things that never failed  
It was wondrous just to watch them with the work that it entailed  
Handmade flies of local bugs that fly around the dam  
And peas and cheese and sweet corn and a thing called peanut jam

We now don't do much fishing and the dam is left alone  
We sometimes walk around it as a fishing no go zone  
And then just occasionally when we least expect surprise  
A bloody great big trout leaps out right before our eyes.

It's become a thing of legend and the fishermen debate  
The problem is the fish themselves and not the rigs or bait  
What started out a great idea to have some fishing fun  
The crew at Duke's will all agree THE BLOODY TROUT HAVE WON.



*Duke*



## STOP PRESS

Since penning the above poem, our Fabulous Freddie DID catch one, a MONSTER one which was apparently delicious with chips and salad!

## CURRENT WINES

We have good stocks of the beautiful 2017 vintage REDS and with the release of the new 2019 RIESLINGs we urge you to order **NOW**. Stock is very short and we will run out very quickly. We could literally sell all our MAGPIE HILL RIESLINGs to retailers tomorrow, but reserve as much as we can for our regular Newsletter customers.

\*\*\*\* NOW Bottled Another beautiful vintage of Riesling...Duke can't believe it.

The 2019 ROSÉ will be available and will be phased in as the 2018 disappears in the next couple of months.



## RAIN GLORIOUS RAIN.

We have finally had what we hope is the "BREAK" and all the local farmers are happy. The pasture in the Vineyard is growing and the root systems on the vines will be enjoying it....Next is some extra rain to fill our very low dams,

We did a trip back from Perth on June 8<sup>th</sup> and drove through a dust storm....unheard of in the Great Southern and unimaginable in JUNE.

Every time you are caught in the rain, think of us in full pruning gear at work until the end of August and smile.

## THE ODD SHIRAZ NEWSLETTER SPECIAL

Odd numbers 2013 and 2015 six of each in a really interesting dozen that reflects two quite different vintages.

**NEWSLETTER PRICE \$220.**

The 2013 has developed and shows its herb and spice characters elegantly. The 2015 is a bigger, bolder wine which we did not release because we only made a small quantity. We are now selling this lovely wine only through the cellar and our Newsletter. It is a classic Great Southern Shiraz. The 2013 is the oldest wine we have ever sold ...except for the few that find their way into our cellar door MUSEUM wines shelf.

Just a reminder that our CELLAR DOOR IS OPEN FOR 363 DAYS A YEAR, from 10am - 4.30pm. We live on the property and would be happy to make an appointment for you outside these hours.

Best wishes for winter  
Keep warm  
From all the team at Dukes

Cheers from

Duke

Hilde

Freddie

Rachel

& Justin