

## QUINTEN LYNCH VISITS CLAIRAULT WINES

Margaret River has hundreds of wineries popping up everywhere around the region, but if you want to be guaranteed a fantastic meal that supports local produce and sensational wine, head to Clairault Winery. We absolutely loved it!

My girlfriend Daneka and I jumped at the chance to do a review down south and were ecstatic to find that we were headed to Clairault, as we already love their wine and had heard great things about their cellar door. Let me just say the expectations were high.

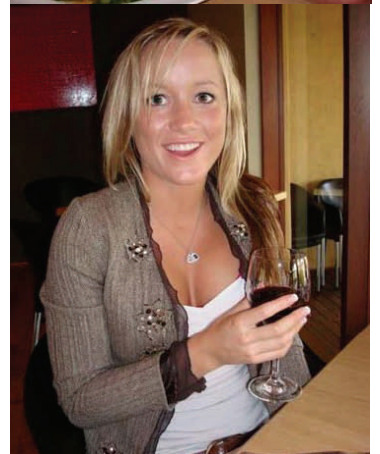
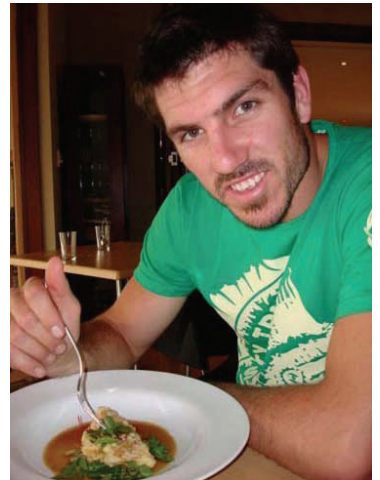
I was really impressed with the Cellar Door/Restaurant. It has an earthy, homely feel to it, with its huge open fireplace and windows that overlook the spectacular view of the vineyard. The place becomes quite intimate without even trying and in true Margaret River style it has a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. I'm sure on a sunny day the deck would be a great place to sip on a glass (or two) of their estate 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon while enjoying a meal.

If you can drag yourself away from the wine tasting, check out the menu in the restaurant. How can one make a decision out of that? The whole menu looked fantastic. Daneka and I are useless at making decisions when it comes to deciding what to eat so the Degustation Menu was perfect for us. Five courses matched up perfectly with five wines.

The food was truly AMAZING! I couldn't tell you my favorite course out of five; they were all as good as each other. Daneka loved the scallop and lobster tortellini however, I had to eat my venison lion extremely fast because I could see her eyeing it off and ready to swoop after she gobbled hers down. The servings were well sized and presented like works of art (as you can see in the photo). I seriously struggled to fit it all in, but somehow I managed; it was too good to waste.

Credit to the staff who not only gave us a fantastic meal but an education on the wines and each course. It was a long and highly enjoyable experience, definitely exceeded our already high expectations. Enjoy and make sure you give the vineyard local resident, Jack the dog, a pat on your way out.

*Quinten Lynch*



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