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## Taste the best of Perth's south-west

**S**eventeen years ago, Karl Hillier chose Western Australia's stunning southwest as the perfect backdrop to establish his winery. Harris River Estate is set in acres of natural bushland in the picturesque town of Collie, two hours south of Perth and two hours north of Margaret River.

"I like the bush and the quietness, the freedom it has," Karl says of the property which includes an agistment centre plus 24 hectares under vine, which grows six grape varieties; chardonnay, verdelho, viognier, shiraz, cabernet sauvignon and merlot.

Karl also purchased a cider-making operation and then added a microbrewery to offer another

alternative for non-wine drinkers. As a qualified brewer, his favourite beer is their Black Diamond Schwarz lager that has the appearance of a stout.

Karl's wife, Julie, admits her favourite tippie is their viognier and reveals they will soon be introducing a sparkling wine. "We produce 1200 tonnes a year, so we're classed as a small winery," she says. "We've got our own bottling line, labelling line and harvesters. So we do everything – the whole supply chain."

The couple often goes on reconnaissance to the Swan Valley and Margaret River to taste what's on offer elsewhere. Says Karl: "I generally like to sample them all to get a feel for the point of difference between breweries." ▶

## Where to stay in the south west

The best accommodation on the wine trail.



### HARRIS RIVER ESTATE

To accommodate visitors, Karl recently built two independent self-contained chalets at Harris River Estate. Within walking distance of the vineyard, restaurant and brewery, the chalets offer privacy and convenience. Close to mountain bike tracks and walking trails, the two bedroom chalets sleep seven and are equipped with a kitchen and dining area, washing machine and tumble dryer, and spectacular views of the estate. 442 Harris River Rd, Harris River; [harrisriverestate.com.au](http://harrisriverestate.com.au)

### WHISPERING PINES B&B

Choose a romantic, secluded getaway beside the tranquil Collie River, where a private jetty is available for fishing, canoeing or swimming. Containing only three rooms, guests can choose one with a downstairs courtyard or a treetop balcony. 1 Rowe Street, Collie; [whisperingpinesbandb.com.au](http://whisperingpinesbandb.com.au)

### COLLIE RIDGE MOTEL

The contemporary style motel features 53 rooms surrounded by manicured gardens, gas BBQs and ample parking. The upmarket Ridge Restaurant offers alfresco dining, room service and packed lunches. Coalfields Hwy, 185-195 Throssell Street, Collie; [collieridgemotel.com.au](http://collieridgemotel.com.au)

THE POINTY END



STAY A WHILE AT HARRIS RIVER ESTATE AND TASTE A CURRENT VINTAGE, OR TWO.

### Mojo's Restaurant Café

On a rare day off, Karl and Julie stop in at Mojo's – a Bunbury CBD restaurant known for the depth of its boutique beers list – for a tapas lunch of buffalo wings and Arthurs Grove olives – and when he is all beered out Karl goes for the Woodgate Bojangles pinot noir chardonnay. *Victoria St, Bunbury; [mojosrestaurant.com.au](http://mojosrestaurant.com.au)*

### Wise Wine

Boasting two restaurants and an amazing position in the Margaret River just a short drive from the region's rugged coastline is Wise Wine owned by Ron and Sandra Wise. Karl and Julie immerse themselves in the ambiance of this intimate, independent winery with a glass of individually crafted Eagle Bay shiraz. *237 Eagle Bay Road, Eagle Bay; [wisewine.com.au](http://wisewine.com.au)*



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At Harris River Estate, guests can enjoy their beverages with a tapas meal, either while relaxing on the balcony overlooking the surrounding forest and vineyard, or on the lush lawn of the spacious beer garden that offers panoramic views of the valley, and the enormous rustic cellar doors.

We got Karl's hot tips on where to taste the best of Perth and the south west:

### Southern Star Vietnamese Restaurant

This is Karl's go-to Perth restaurant. He always washes down his meal with an ice-cold bottle of Matso's mango beer or ginger beer – brewed in Broome you can find Matso's on the menus of many Perth eateries. There is also Beer 333 available from Vietnam. *1/132 Terrace Road, Perth; [southernstarcafe.com.au](http://southernstarcafe.com.au)*

### The Wild Bull Brewery

Just out of Bunbury in the town of Ferguson is the Wild Bull Brewery whose handcrafted brews include a Black Angus or a pear cider. Karl favours the handcrafted, additive- and preservative-free pale ale, however. The "bull ring" is →a huge entertainment space within brewery and Wild Bull also has local arts, crafts and a range of fun Wild Bull merchandise. *562 Pile Road, Ferguson; [wildbullbrewery.com.au](http://wildbullbrewery.com.au)*

MANGO BEER AND A PLATE OF PERTH'S BEST VIETNAMESE

### TIGERAIR FLIES

to Perth from Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne; [tigerair.com.au](http://tigerair.com.au)



### TASTE OF THE WEST

Perth's south-west has some amazing wine and produce and can show it off in restaurants like Mojo's (pictured above and top) which has a big boutique beer list too.