

First published in Australia by Margaret River Press in 2014

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Witchcliffe
Western Australia 6286
www.margaretriverpress.com

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Cataloguing-in-Publication data is available from
the National Library of Australia.


ISBN 978-0-9875615-0-3

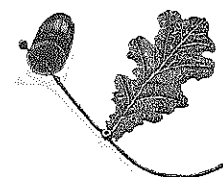
Cover and text designed by Carrie Retallack
Typeset in Goudy Old Style
Edited by Dennis Haskell
Printed in China through Red Planet Print Management
Published by Margaret River Press, Western Australia



A joint project between
Margaret River Press and Cullen Wines

CULLEN WINES

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MARGARET RIVER
• P R E S S •

MANGAN VINEYARD MALBEC 2012

A VOLUPTUOUS YEAR

I. Perigee (Margaret River, September)

tang of silence in plum dense meniscus
slosh & ruby shake in crystal thin glass
swishing-legs stream then frictionless surface
lips stiff and first sniff, cherrywash, mouthflush
tannin sting, oakhint, tickling notes rush

then still stained glass, my palate of *Vitis*;
Malbec, of a thousand names - *Plant du Lor*,
Auxerrois Du Mans, *Côt*, *Pied de Perdrix* - I prefer
noir doux (sweet black) *doux noir* (soft black) like
Margaret River evening from protea ridgetop

laced with dampness of long-delayed season
two horses canter moon goads supertide;
in pistons of thought, wind, meme, reverie:
Issac Himmelhoch kneels in his vineyard,
sheds his cravat for your intricacy.*

II. Syzygy (Mangan Vineyard, October)**

tendrils of jute twine, espalier grape
Dionysus field sheltered in covey of
banksia, red gum & karri nursemaids
Wilyabrup Brook effusing oceanward
cicadas tic, crow squawks, cockatoos shriek

anima mundi limp sway spidersilk
fruit flows to flower, from berry slush, wine
a voluptuous year - balsamic hints, round
bounty of grapes to body of taste made
plump luminous by moon gravitas

five faint furrows of budded intelligence
poised to dehisce behind velvet of lobes
I slant head cautiously forward to glimpse
and kneel on the earth, aside the burrows -
the sun and the word fuse in syzygy.

* Isaac Himmelhoch (1839-1911) first introduced Malbec grapes to Australia at his Grodno, Vineyard Liverpool near Sydney in 1901.

** A syzygy is a poetic technique, as well as the alignment of three celestial bodies, which in conjunction with a perigee produces a supermoon.

JOHN CHARLES RYAN is the co-author of *Two with Nature* (with botanical artist Ellen Hickman, Fremantle Press, 2012) and contributor to *Fremantle Poets 3: Performance Poets* (Fremantle Press, 2013). With an interest in environmental and botanical writing, he has published poetry in local, national and international journals. His historical and cultural research into Western Australian flora appears in the books *Green Sense* (True Heart Press, 2012) and *Unbraided Lines* (Common Ground Press, 2013). Originally from the United States, John lives in Perth and is a Research Fellow at Edith Cowan University.

