



Cullen

The Cullen Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot is a blend of elegance and power, showcasing a rich complexity and structure characteristic of Margaret River.

CULLEN WINES
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER



94
James
Halliday



Cabernet Sauvignon - Merlot 2020

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Margaret River** region in Western Australia is celebrated for its Bordeaux-style blends, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cullen vineyard, located in **Wilyabrup**, benefits from a temperate maritime climate, moderated by the nearby Indian Ocean. This unique climate, along with ancient granite and gravelly loam soils, encourages vine health and promotes deep-rooted vineyards, contributing to the wine's structure and depth. Established in **1971**, the vineyard is **certified biodynamic and carbon-neutral**, emphasizing Cullen's commitment to sustainability and terroir-driven winemaking.

Winemaking

This vintage experienced exceptionally dry conditions, with lower-than-average rainfall from the winter and hot, dry months leading into harvest. These conditions produced low yields with smaller berry sizes, intensifying flavor concentration. This blend comprises **70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec, and 1% Cabernet Franc**. Following hand-harvesting, the wine was matured for **8 months in French oak barrels**, with **33% new oak** to enhance complexity without overwhelming the fruit.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with violet hues.
- **Aroma:** A complex bouquet of **red fruits, plum, cigar box, and mineral notes**.
- **Palate:** Rich and layered, showcasing **dark chocolate and mulberry** flavors, framed by dense tannins that emphasize the Cabernet's pedigree. Hints of forest fruits on the mid-palate promise further development with time in bottle.

Did you know?

This wine highlights Cullen's pioneering **biodynamic practices**, and the **Cullen family** has led Margaret River's shift to sustainable viticulture. Vanya Cullen's commitment to these methods was key to the vineyard becoming the first **carbon-neutral winery** in Australia.

Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Malbec, 1% Cabernet Franc



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Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Braised Short Ribs:** The wine's tannins and depth enhance the richness of slow-cooked meats.
- **Grilled Portobello Mushrooms:** Earthy flavors complement the wine's dark fruit and mineral notes.
- **Aged Gouda:** The cheese's nutty profile pairs well with the wine's complex layers.
- **Roasted Duck with Plum Sauce:** Fruit flavors from the wine echo the sauce's sweetness, balancing the duck's richness.



James Halliday (JH) : 94 Points (2020)

70/26/2/1/1% cabernet sauvignon/merlot/petit verdot/cabernet franc/malbec, 63/37% Cullen/Mangan vineyards, harvested in 12 batches, each representing different components of the moon cycle. This is super-restrained; the length allows the delicate fruit to unfurl and unfold over the palate. Mulberry, salted blood plum, dusted cassis and bramble overlaid with salt bush, licorice, fennel flower and cigar. A gorgeous wine. Effortless.



James Suckling (JS) : 94 Points (2020)

Fresh, violet-like aromas with blue and red-berry tones, too. This is so pure and vibrant. The palate has very elegant shape and fluid, fine tannins that deliver red-berry, plum and blueberry flavors.



Wines & Spirits (W&S) : 93 Points (2020)

Tart and tight, centered around sage and rosemary notes and smoky chile flavors, the biodynamically farmed wine from the far coast is rich without weight. There's a sweet, fruity guajillo pepper spice up front, and a salty, herbal note to the dark fruit, lasting on the fresh edge of parsley. Give this a year or two in the cellar for the fruit to fill out all the complex aromatics.

