



# Cullen

The Cullen Diana Madeline 2020 embodies the essence of Margaret River with its rich, concentrated fruit and a fine mineral backbone, highlighting the intense character of a warm vintage.

CULLEN WINES  
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER



Alcohol :13,00 %

Composition: 92% Cabernet  
Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 3%  
Cabernet Franc, 1% Malbec

## Diana Madeline 2020

Margaret River, Australia

### Region and Vineyards

The **Margaret River region** of Western Australia, particularly the subregion of **Wilyabrup**, is renowned for producing some of Australia's finest and most age-worthy wines. Benefiting from a maritime climate influenced by the Indian and Southern Oceans, the area experiences warm, dry growing seasons with cool nights, ideal for **Cabernet Sauvignon** and other Bordeaux varieties. The soils in Wilyabrup are composed of **ancient granite, gravelly sandy loam, and lateritic subsoils**, providing excellent drainage and contributing to the intensity and complexity of the fruit. These conditions enable the development of deeply rooted vines, which extract distinct mineral notes from the subsoil, further enhancing the wine's character.

The **Cullen vineyard**, established in 1971 by Dr. Kevin and Diana Cullen, is now under the stewardship of their daughter Vanya Cullen. The estate, spanning **11.33 hectares** of Cabernet Sauvignon and **1.76 hectares** of Merlot, is **certified biodynamic and carbon-neutral**, underscoring Cullen's commitment to environmental stewardship. The conversion to biodynamic practices is credited with enhancing the depth and purity of the fruit, allowing the Cullen team to create wines that express the unique terroir of Wilyabrup with exceptional precision and elegance.

### Winemaking

The **2020 vintage** was marked by dry conditions, with lower-than-average rainfall and hot weather persisting from January to March, producing drought-like circumstances. These conditions led to small berry sizes and low yields, allowing for concentrated flavors and natural balance in the fruit. The blend consists of **92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Malbec**, all of which were hand-harvested on biodynamic fruit and flower days, ensuring optimal ripeness and flavor complexity.

Following harvest, each grape variety was fermented separately with **indigenous yeasts** for 10 to 29 days. The wine was then gently basket-pressed and matured for **13 months in French oak barrels**, with **50% new oak** to enhance structure and depth. The use of biodynamic oak contributes to the unique profile of the wine, emphasizing Cullen's commitment to sustainable, natural winemaking practices. The final blend captures the essence of the vintage's intensity while maintaining an elegant, nuanced profile that speaks to both the vineyard and the winemaker's skill.



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## Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Garnet with youthful ruby-purple hues.
- **Aroma:** Rich and complex, featuring aromas of **mulberry, chocolate, wild rose, and a hint of curry leaf** that add depth to the bouquet.
- **Palate:** A juicy core of **mulberry, plum, and cherry** is complemented by fine-grained tannins and an earthy minerality with notes of **ironstone and dust**, reflecting the heat and concentration of the vintage. The palate balances lightness and intensity, with a lingering, unctuous finish that showcases both the wine's fruit purity and its potential for aging.

## Did you know?

The **Diana Madeline 2020** is a tribute to Diana Cullen, co-founder of the estate and a pioneering figure in Australian viticulture. The **dry, warm conditions** of this vintage mirror those of the renowned **2003 vintage**, providing a similar structure and balance. This vintage also showcases Vanya Cullen's dedication to **biodynamic viticulture**, which has positioned the Cullen estate as one of Australia's most respected biodynamic producers.

## Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Beef Bourguignon:** The wine's concentrated fruit and earthy, ironstone notes enhance the depth of this rich, slow-cooked dish.
- **Lamb Tagine with Prunes:** The mulberry and plum flavors in the wine beautifully complement the sweetness of the prunes, while its tannic structure balances the lamb's richness.
- **Truffle Risotto:** The wine's minerality and earthy notes pair elegantly with the umami-rich flavors of truffle, making for a luxurious combination.
- **Hard Aged Cheddar:** This cheese's sharp, nutty profile highlights the wine's complexity and concentrated fruit flavors.

### James Halliday (JH) : 98 Points (2020)



*Hand picked across 3 days according to the biodynamic calendar. Wild ferment, matured in French oak for 6 months (50% new), 100% mlf. 2020 was a fast and short vintage with heartbreakingly low yields in Margaret River, yet it produced wines of effortless grace and poise. This is most certainly one of those. Like a rhythmic pulse of flavor in the mouth ... steady, like a heartbeat. All elements are in harmony: fruit, acid, phenolics; they gently seesaw between each other, spooling out a seemingly never-ending trail of flavor. Breathtakingly beautiful, again.*

### James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2020)



*This is bright, layered and gently herbal cabernet-based blend with a deliciously textured array of black fruit, mint chocolate, iodine, olive stones, eucalyptus and bay leaves. Medium-bodied, with firm yet well-integrated tannins. Savory. Creamy and fine at the end. 92% cabernet sauvignon, 4% merlot, 3% cabernet franc and 1% malbec. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold. Screw cap.*

