

Cullen

From Wilyabrup's maritime sands and gravels, Ephraim 2023 channels Mangan Vineyard intensity into a poised, textural red–dark-fruited, violet-tinged and refreshingly savoury, with a cool, ocean-breeze lift.

CULLEN WINES
WILYABRUP & MARGARET RIVER



Ephraim 2023

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Margaret River sits between the Indian and Southern Oceans, enjoying a **maritime-influenced Mediterranean** climate with even heat accumulation, cooling sea breezes and high winter rainfall—conditions that preserve acidity and extend ripening. In the northern sector, **Wilyabrup** is prized for elegant, deeply structured reds. Its ridge soils are predominantly gravelly and gritty sandy loams derived from ancient granite and gneiss, often over laterite and clay, promoting excellent drainage, deep rooting and concentration.

Ephraim is sourced **100% from Mangan Vineyard** in Wilyabrup, farmed to Cullen's exacting **biodynamic** standards and dry-grown to favour low yields and flavour intensity. The site's old-granite, gravelly sandy loams over lateritic subsoils inflect the wine with dark fruit purity, floral lift and a savoury herbal thread. Vineyard work is entirely by hand, aligning harvest decisions with lunar and biodynamic calendars to capture vineyard energy and precision.

Winemaking

The blend is **70% Malbec and 30% Petit Verdot**, all from Mangan Vineyard. Fruit was hand-picked across biodynamic flower days (including **23 March, New Moon Super Moon**), then wild-fermented with **no additions** beyond minimal sulphur to faithfully express site character. The wine was **unfined** to preserve texture and detail.

Elevage ran **8 months** in oak, **35% new**, shaping supple structure without masking fruit. Basket pressing and gentle handling kept tannins fine-grained and chalk-edged, supporting a compact core of dark berries and blue fruits. Bottled at **13.5%** alcohol, the 2023 shows clarity and drive, with Cullen's signature brightness and a lingering cocoa-toned lift.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 70% Malbec, 30% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Vibrant ruby, garnet-purple rim; dense and glass-staining.
- **Aroma**: Black cherry, mulberry and salty plum layered with violets, sage and thyme; hints of cocoa and subtle cedar.
- **Palate**: Compact, dark-fruited core (cherry, mulberry, plum) carried by fine, chalky tannins; savoury herb detail, lively acidity and a persistent chocolate-berry finish.

Did you know?

The 2023 release marks the renaming of **Mangan East Block** to **Ephraim**, honouring **Ephraim Mayo Clarke**—Dr. Kevin John Cullen's grandfather—who operated a store and winery in Bunbury and famously sold "Punchbowl" wine across Western Australia. The tribute underscores Cullen's continuum of family stewardship and place-first philosophy.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Chargrilled lamb backstrap with rosemary and garlic** — dark fruit depth and herb notes echo the seasoning; tannins cut the protein.
- **Venison loin with juniper and blackcurrant jus** — game's intensity suits Petit Verdot's structure and Ephraim's berry-cocoa finish.
- **Roast duck with five-spice and plum glaze** — savoury spice and plum glaze mirror the wine's salty-plum, violet profile.
- **Portobello mushroom and thyme ragù with polenta** — umami and herbs sync with the wine's savoury, herbal line and fine tannin.