

Cullen

Cullen Kevin John Wilyabrup Chardonnay is a biodynamic Chardonnay from Margaret River, showcasing intricate flavors and remarkable texture, reflecting Cullen's commitment to quality and sustainability.

CULLEN WINES
WILYABRUP & MARGARET RIVER



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Kevin John Chardonnay 2022

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Located in **Wilyabrup**, within Western Australia's celebrated **Margaret River** wine region, Cullen's vineyards benefit from a **maritime climate** influenced by the Indian Ocean, providing warm days and cool nights ideal for Chardonnay. This temperate climate extends the ripening period, allowing for a gradual development of complex aromas and balanced acidity. **Wilyabrup** is renowned for its well-draining **granite and sandy loam soils**, which add a mineral dimension to the wines, enhancing their finesse and structural elegance.

The Chardonnay grapes for the Kevin John wine are harvested from **three distinct Wente clone blocks** planted in 1976 and 1988, reflecting a legacy of nearly 50 years of winemaking. These old vines, rooted in Cullen's biodynamically managed soils, yield fruit with high concentration and vibrant acidity. The south-facing and level aspects of these vineyards contribute to the freshness and longevity of the Chardonnay, showcasing the distinct terroir of Wilyabrup.

Winemaking

The **Kevin John Chardonnay** was meticulously crafted, with grapes hand-harvested according to the **biodynamic calendar** in multiple passes to capture optimal ripeness. After a whole-bunch basket press, **12% of the juice was fermented in amphora** with two days of skin contact, bringing depth and texture to the final wine. The remaining juice was pressed into **50% new biodynamic puncheons** and a concrete egg, allowing for natural fermentation with indigenous yeasts. Regular bâtonnage was conducted to enhance texture and complexity.

The wine underwent a full **malolactic conversion** and aged for **six months in puncheons**, furthering its rich, layered profile. No fining, filtration, or cold stabilization was applied, preserving the wine's natural purity. The result is a Chardonnay of impressive concentration, precision, and aging potential, showcasing Cullen's biodynamic approach.

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Straw with green hints, indicating freshness.
- **Aroma**: Intriguing bouquet of lemon, lime flowers, kaffir lime, dried pear, and saline notes.
- **Palate**: Concentrated flavors of dried pear, orange blossom, and lemon sherbet, complemented by vibrant mineral acidity and a long, expressive finish.

Did You Know?

Cullen Wines, founded in 1971 by **Dr. Kevin and Diana Cullen**, is one of Australia's most awarded biodynamic wineries. **Vanya Cullen**, their daughter, has continued this legacy with international acclaim. In 2023, she was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) for her contributions to sustainable viticulture.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled Lobster with Lemon Butter**: The wine's acidity and citrus notes enhance the richness of lobster, while its saline quality complements the buttery flavors.
- **Butternut Squash Risotto with Sage**: The wine's mineral acidity balances the creamy texture of risotto, and its herbal nuances echo the sage.
- **Soft-Ripened Cheese like Brie**: The creamy texture of Brie is enhanced by the wine's acidity and citrus aromas, creating a balanced, indulgent pairing.
- **Seared Scallops with Saffron Cream**: The wine's complex fruit profile and saline notes highlight the delicate flavors of scallops, while saffron complements its floral aromas.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2022)

The Chardonnays I have tasted so far from the 2022 vintage in Margaret River remind me of the 2014s, in their soft acidity and primal, almost unbound fruit power. Here, the 2022 Kevin John Chardonnay leads with crushed nuts, salted yellow peach, red apple skins, preserved citrus rind, yuzu, green tea and saltbush, before tumbling into the flavors in the mouth. Toffee apple, nuts, curry leaf and saffron. Concentrated, piercing and intense. The acid envelops the tongue and holds it hostage, while the fruit explodes with power. The Gingin clone is on show here. The wine trails to a soft, juicy finish. It is lingering, very good, excellent, even better after a gentle decant and served in a big Burgundy glass. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

97 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 97 Points (2021)

Matured in puncheons (35% new and of biodynamic origins) for eight months without further additions. The color pick-up is substantial, but there's nothing in the bouquet that suggests premature aging, et al. It's complex but harmonious, long and balanced. There's more stone fruit, fig and melon than citrus, but that's intentional, and in tune with the Wilyabrup subregion.

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Kevin John Chardonnay 2022

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2021)

The 2021 Chardonnay Kevin John is exceptional from start to finish. It is a beautifully pure and pristine expression of young Chardonnay that also carries excellent generosity of flavor. Precise grapefruit, pear, ginger and high quality spicy oak aromas provide a strong introduction. Energetic and vivacious, there is a delicious tension between crisp acidity and lively, youthful fruits, all beautifully balanced, before a long, chalky, zesty finish with extreme length. A benchmark Margaret River Chardonnay.

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