



Cullen

A standout from an exceptional vintage, this biodynamic Cabernet Sauvignon blend reveals layers of fruit purity and elegant structure, ideal for aging.

CULLEN WINES
WILYABRUP MARGARET RIVER



Diana Madeline 2019

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

The **Margaret River** region of Western Australia, and more specifically **Wilyabrup**, is highly regarded for its Bordeaux-style wines. This area benefits from a maritime climate moderated by the Indian and Southern Oceans, providing a long, warm growing season with cool nights that preserve acidity and enhance the quality of **Cabernet Sauvignon** and other Bordeaux varietals. The soils are composed of **ancient granite, gravelly sandy loam, and lateritic subsoils**, which support excellent drainage and deep root growth, essential for producing concentrated, complex wines.

The **Cullen vineyard** was established in 1971 by Dr. Kevin and Diana Cullen, pioneers of biodynamic practices in the region. Today, the estate is **certified biodynamic and carbon-neutral**. Covering **11.33 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon** and **1.76 hectares of Merlot**, the vines are mature and deeply rooted, producing fruit that reflects the unique terroir of Wilyabrup. Cullen's biodynamic methods, implemented fully since 2004, emphasize sustainability and terroir-driven winemaking, creating wines with a strong sense of place.

Winemaking

The **2019 vintage** was marked by consistent temperatures and optimal ripening conditions, resulting in small berries with concentrated flavors and a natural balance of acidity. The blend for this vintage consists of **88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Malbec**, each variety hand-harvested on biodynamic fruit and flower days to preserve the vibrancy and complexity of the fruit.

Each variety underwent separate fermentation with **indigenous yeasts**, maintaining the wine's natural character. After gentle basket pressing, the wine was aged for **17 months in French oak**, with **50% new oak** to enhance structure and complexity while allowing the purity of the fruit to shine. Cullen's biodynamic approach and careful vinification result in a wine with depth, minerality, and exceptional aging potential.

Alcohol :12,50 %

Composition: 88% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4%
Merlot, 2% Malbec



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with vivid ruby highlights.
- **Aroma:** A complex bouquet of **blackcurrant, black cherry, truffle, and sandalwood**, complemented by floral notes of violet and wild rose.
- **Palate:** Silky and layered, with flavors of **blackberry, plum, and earthy nuances** framed by fine, integrated tannins. Hints of ironstone and dust add complexity, while the finish is long and balanced, showcasing the wine's aging potential and fruit purity.

Did you know?

The **Diana Madeline 2019** pays tribute to Diana Cullen, co-founder of the estate and a respected figure in Australian wine. In 2019, her daughter Vanya Cullen was honored as Winemaker of the Year, reflecting the family's enduring commitment to quality. Cullen Wines is also celebrated as Australia's first **certified carbon-neutral winery**, exemplifying its dedication to sustainable viticulture.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb:** The wine's fine tannins and dark fruit flavors complement the savory and herbal notes of the lamb, enhancing its richness.
- **Duck Confit with Fig Glaze:** The wine's plum and berry notes pair beautifully with the sweet richness of duck, while the earthy undertones mirror the dish's depth.
- **Mushroom Risotto with Truffle Oil:** The wine's earthy notes and structured palate harmonize with the umami richness of mushrooms and truffle.
- **Aged Comté Cheese:** The complex flavors and nutty profile of aged Comté accentuate the wine's minerality and concentrated fruit, creating an elegant pairing.



James Halliday (JH) : 98 Points (2019)

As usual, the Kevin John arrives with an aura about it ... it undulates in the mouth, whipping and changing like Melbourne weather, 4 seasons in one day. It has exotic market spice, ripe orchard fruit, orange blossom, turmeric, saffron curls and saline acid. It's extraordinarily long, incredibly exciting and with phenolic texture that elevates it beyond the excitement that it delivers. Through it all meanders a coastal breeze, keeping it light and airy; the thundering power of Gingin fruit is concealed under many folds of flavour!





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**Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 97 Points (2019)**

Cullen's flagship Chardonnay, from vines planted in the 1970s and '80s, saw its lowest yield in 25 years. A shame, considering how darn delicious it is. Its golden color suggests richness right off the bat that's confirmed at first sniff. Intense, yet still-fresh aromas of caramel and flint thread seamlessly with kiwi, lemon-lime and wild herbs. The palate walks a tightrope of power and elegance. Toasty oak notes make way for pure, juicy fruit. Long, complex in texture, with fabulous, mineral acidity, this drinks beautifully now but can age for several decades, until 2040 at least!

**Decanter (DCT) : 96 Points (2019)**

Rare frost scythed Cullen's typically tiny old-vine Gin Gin clone yields by 60%, resulting in phenomenal concentration. Yet there is detail through layering and white flower and bay leaf lift. Toast and butterscotch notes speak of oak (30% new) and 100% malolactic fermentation, but are subsumed by powerful ripe peach, mandarin, fig and custard apple, cut with lime acidity; a parcel was whole-bunch fermented in amphorae. Intense and lingering.

