CULLEN











2013 CULLEN 'KEVIN JOHN' CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Vanya Cullen

R E G | O N: Margaret River, Western Australia

VARIETALS: Chardonnay

MATURATION: 9 months in French barriques (30% new, 70% second use)

ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc./vol | TA 5.60 g/l | 3.21 pH

TRIBUTE TO A MARGARET RIVER PIONEER:

Kevin Cullen was a passionate believer in Margaret River's potential to become one of the world's great regions for Chardonnay. He created the Cullen International Wine Tasting, now in its twenty fifth year, to provide a vehicle by which Margaret River's Chardonnays could be benchmarked against the great Chardonnays of the world. In order to recognize the contribution Kevin made in elevating Cullen's Chardonnay to the iconic status it holds today, Vanya named the Cullen Chardonnay after him from the 2006 vintage onwards.

WINEMAKING:

Overall vintage conditions were again excellent with higher than usual rainfall in early summer and warm, dry conditions leading up to harvest. The fruit produced by all Cullen vineyards was exceptional. The Chardonnay was hand-picked and the whole bunches were pressed in small basket presses and spontaneously fermented in French barriques, one third of which were new. The wine underwent partial malolactic fermentation prior to aging for a further nine months in barrel.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2013 Kevin John Chardonnay is a brilliant light gold color. Intense citrus, pear and tropical fruit aromas are enhanced by the near perfect use of oak. The palate is rich and complex, combining fresh pear, grapefruit, lime and papaya flavors and wonderfully balanced by citrusy acidity.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Australian Wine Companion, 95+ pts The Wine Advocate, 94 pts Wine Enthusiast, 93 pts Vinous, 93 pts Wine Spectator, 92 pts Wine & Spirits

A B O U T C ULLEN: A founding winery of Margaret River, Cullen was established in 1971 by pioneering winemakers Kevin and Diana Cullen. In redefining the style of Australian Cabernet Sauvignon produced in the 1970s, the fledgling estate caught the attention of the nation. Since then, an unrelenting commitment to quality and site expression has positioned Cullen as one of Australia's greatest estates - and Margaret River as one of the nation's premier wine-producing regions. The mature, biodynamically-farmed vineyards produce elegant, age-worthy wines that draw worldwide critical acclaim, including what is regarded by many as the country's definitive Bordeaux blend.







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