

CULLEN



MARGARET RIVER



2010 CULLEN 'KEVIN JOHN' CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Vanya Cullen
 REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
 VARIETALS: Chardonnay
 MATURATION: 5 months in French barriques (66% new)
 ALCOHOL: 13.5% alc./vol | TA 7.81 g/l | 3.07 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 fourth 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:

The warm dry summer of 2010 led to good yields of very high quality Chardonnay fruit that resulted in the production of a slightly richer wine than the excellent 2009. The fruit was picked in excellent physiological condition at a range of sugar levels. The elegance and complexity of the wine was enhanced by the use of gentle basket pressing. The fruit was whole bunch pressed and spontaneously fermented in French barriques, two thirds of which were new. The wine underwent partial malolactic fermentation prior to aging for a further five months in barrel.

TASTING NOTES:

Integrated and pure citrus and peach fruit flavors are perfectly complemented by the crisp acidity, minerality, and with just the right touch of background vanillin oak. Superbly balanced and with great length and line. Persistent and delicious.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 95+ pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 93 pts Wine Enthusiast, 92 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 92 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT CULLEN: 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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