

2009 CULLEN WINES DIANA MADELINE CABERNET MERLOT

Review Summary



98 pts “A miraculous 12.5% and yet impeccably ripe with mulch, peat and an iodine minerality giving pulse and great length. Cabernet dominant Bordeaux blend. This wine is clearly reflective of its meager, ancient and stony soils. Long and sappy. Penetrative. Needs time to shed its tannins, but so not in the mold of extract and really ripe fruit that many perceive the New World, let alone Australia, as being all about!”

James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com
November 1, 2011

96 pts – Best of the Best: Cabernet Merlot Blend

Nick Stock
2012 Good Wine Guide

95 pts “The usual complex blend of Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc/Merlot/Malbec, wild yeast-fermented and matured for 13 months in French oak. It has excellent colour, and is made in the 'new' medium-bodied Cullen style; the texture is silky, and the tannins are not the least aggressive, making it a very elegant and fresh wine that will doubtless age for as long as you wish.”

James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2013

93 pts “Coming from a single vineyard planted in 1971 and 1976, the 2009 Diana Madeline is a blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, 4% Merlot and 2% Malbec. It was aged for around 13 months in French barriques, 55% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it offers expressive aromas of ripe cassis, freshly crushed blackberries and blueberries over cloves, damp loam, hung meat, grated mace, dried Mediterranean herbs and a dusting of dark chocolate powder. Medium bodied and wonderfully graceful on the palate, it has crisp acid, firm finely grained tannins and a long earthy finish.”

Lisa Perotti-Brown, eRobertParker - Issue #196
August, 2011

93 pts “Dark violet. Fresh cherry and raspberry aromas are complemented by pipe tobacco and dried rose. Silky and sweet in the mouth, with bright red fruit flavors complemented by deeper bitter chocolate and herbal nuances. Firmly structured but in no way hard, finishing with excellent clarity and sappy persistence.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2011



92 pts “Cullen’s classic Cabernet is refined and extremely tight in 2009. There’s red currant bounce to the fruit along with smoky notes of mint. The finish is clean, breezy and sophisticated, with scents of white tea and pepper. Oak becomes more apparent with air, the wine needing bottle age to fully develop – something Cullen’s finely grown fruit can readily sustain.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits
October 2011

91 pts – Cellar Selection “The 2009 Diana Madeline is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, with the balance a blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec. It boasts lovely aromas of cassis and tobacco leaf or dried herb, while on the palate it is restrained. For all of the aromatic boldness and purity, it’s a bit austere, ending on a firm, crisp note.”

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast’s WineMag.com
February 1, 2013

91 pts “Supple texture, savory overtones and ripe currant and blueberry flavors add up to a welcoming wine that lets its flavors linger gently on the finish. Tannins swarm without interfering. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
November 2011

Wine of the Year

Jeremy Oliver
The Australian Wine Annual 2012

Best Blended Red

Nick Stock
The Wine Guide 2012

100 Best Australian Wines “This is the most backward and introverted Diana Madeline made in a while and it is possible to agitate the molecules of this elixir such that they give forth a mesmerizing aroma, but you have to be persistent and they are sure as hell reluctant to do so. This, in truth, means that you really ought to allow this beauty to slumber for a further three or four years minimum before waking her up. Having said this DM has never been as sought after as it is today so you need to stick your hand up immediately for fear of losing out. At a time when some of the Bordeaux Châteaux are thinking of shelving their en primeur system, there is a distinct possibility that some in Australia might have to introduce one!”

Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2012
May 11, 2012