

2012 CULLEN WINES DIANA MADELINE CABERNET MERLOT

Review Summary



98 pts/Top 100 Wines of 2014 “A 76/17/7% blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc aged for 19 months in French barriques (38% new). The palate has astonishing power and length given its alcohol, reflecting the years during which the vineyard has been managed biodynamically, the soil filled with life and beneficial micro-organisms that are indisputably having a positive impact on the vines. You might well be looking at a wine from Bordeaux's Left Bank, coiled up like a spring, but perfectly balanced, the finish almost painfully long.”

**James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2015**

97 pts “Still very elemental, this has all the hallmarks of one of the great Cullen Diana Madeline wines - abundantly ripe red, blue and purple fruits on the nose, fine chocolate dust, fresh earth and a sheen of fragrant cabernet perfume too. The palate is defined by the right mix of helix-like tannins and juicy, fleshy fruit - really superb balance here, great drive and depth, sapid and precise and filled with lively potential.”

**Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
February 5, 2015**

97 pts “Graceful, precise and determined, this is a savory and structured vintage for Diana Madeline, defined by impeccable tannin form and effortless persistence, promising grand longevity.”

**Tyson Stelzer, Wine Business Monthly
December 2014**

95+ pts “Deep garnet-purple in color and showing a slightly reticent nose of ripe plums, blackcurrants and blackberries with touches of cedar, toast, cinnamon stick, bay leaf and pencil lead, the medium-bodied 2012 Diana Madeline displays outstanding intensity and great elegance on the palate. It has a lovely backbone of firm, fine-grained tannins and balanced acidity to carry the flavors through a finishing with great persistence.”

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate
August 2014**



94 pts “Inky ruby. Mineral- and smoke-laced blackcurrant and cherry aromas are complemented by deeper notes of licorice and mocha. Sappy, seamless and focused, offering sweet black and blue fruit flavors and a hint of anise. This rich yet animated blend finishes with excellent clarity and length and silky tannins that add shape. Extended aeration brought out a lively mineral character and a sexy lavender pastille quality along with added weight.”

Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2014

93 pts “The biodynamic calendar aligned with the ripening of Cullen’s Diana Madeline Cabernet Sauvignon block in 2012; Vanya Cullen reports that all the grapes were harvested from the 7th to the 9th of March, three fruit days under a full moon. That block makes up 76 percent of the blend, the balance equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The wine’s plump fruit takes a claret-like shape, Twiggy-thin but amply filling out the structure with fresh black currant flavor. There’s plenty of oak tannin to capture the fruit intensity, framing herbal and cassis scents with resinous wood notes, suggesting long development ahead.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits
October 2014

91 pts “Beautifully focused, offering layers of blackberry and black cherry fruit, accented by hints of licorice and sage as the finish persists against velvety tannins. A spicy toffee note weaves through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
April 2015

100 Best Australian Wines 2015/16

Matthew Jukes, MatthewJukes.com
2015

“Cullen is a model of consistency in recent years. Here’s another in the rollcall of stately, elegant, medium- to full-bodied reds of moderate (13.5%) alcohol. The color is a bright, medium-deep red with a purple tinge. The bouquet is shy and subtle, fruit driven and attractive with red and dark fruit aromas, plus violets. It’s firm, beautifully proportioned, understated but very, very classy. There’s a purity of fruit and an effortlessness about it. Superb drinking now or any time in the next 20 to 25 years.”

Huon Hooke, GourmetTraveller.com.au
October 2014