

The Wine Advocate, Issue 202: Western Australia: Fine & Sunny. Again.

Cullen Wines

**95+ points** 2010 Cullen Wines Chardonnay Kevin John

Cullen's 2010 Kevin John Chardonnay was whole bunch pressed and barrel fermented naturally in French oak, 2/3 new and 1/3 one year old. It underwent partial malo-lactic fermentation prior to being aged a further five months in barrel. The nose is intensely scented of ripe peaches, green mangos and guava with touches of brioche, cashews, meal and chopped fresh ginger. The medium-bodied palate fills the mouth with luscious stone fruit, toast and nut flavors with a beautifully creamy texture and crisp acid that gives lift long into the spice-laced finish. Delicious now, it will reward cellaring and drink best 2013 to 2020+. This is a truly great Kevin John!

**94 points** 2010 Cullen Wines Diana Madeline

Composed of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot, 4% Malbec and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2010 Diana Madeline was aged for an average of 19 months in French barriques, 51% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it offers an intense perfume of crushed black currants, blackberry preserves and mulberries with underlying clove, cedar, yeast extract, black olive and damp loam hints. The modest light to medium-bodied palate really packs the flavor into an elegant package with layer upon layer of youthful blackberry and spice flavors supported by a firm level of finely grained tannins and crisp acidity, finishing long. It should drink best 2015 to 2028+.

**92 points** 2011 Cullen Wines Sauvignon Blanc Semillon Cullen Vineyard

Composed of 69% Sauvignon Blanc and 31% Semillon, 47% of the 2011 Cullen Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Semillon was fermented in French oak (74% new). It displays youthfully subdued notes of lemon peel, green apples and grapefruit with hints of wet pebbles, toast and coriander seed. Light-bodied, dry and very refreshing in the mouth, it has vibrant citrus fruit flavors and long tangy finish. It's OK to drink now in this primary stage though it will improve significantly in the bottle and should drink best 2014 to 2022+.

**91 points** 2011 Cullen Wines Mangan Vineyard Semillon / Sauvignon Blanc

A blend of 58% Sauvignon Blanc and 42% Semillon, 20% of the 2011 Mangan Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc Semillon was fermented in French oak (28% new). The nose offers delicate notes of yuzu, under-ripe pineapple and nashi with faint whiffs of cedar and cream. Light-bodied and with a lovely satiny texture, it has a lively acid line and a long pleasantly yeasty finish. Consider drinking it 2013 to 2021.

**87 points** 2010 Cullen Wines Margaret River Red

Blended of 48% Malbec, 36% Petit Verdot and 16% Merlot, the 2010 Margaret River Red was aged in 2 year old French oak for 8 months. Deep garnet-purple colored, it gives notes of ripe mulberries, spiced blackberries and red plums with hints of cinnamon stick and black pepper. Medium-bodied, it gives just enough blackberry and plum favor in the mouth matched by a medium level of soft tannins, crisp acid and finishing long with some earthy hints. Drink it now to 2016.

**87 points** 2011 Cullen Wines Margaret River White

Blended of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Chardonnay, Chenin Blanc, Verdelho and Riesling, the 2011 Margaret River White is scented of fresh apples and pears with touches of chalk, dill seed and white pepper. Medium-bodied with an appealing silkiness to the texture, it has crisp acidity cutting through the pure, youthful apple fruit, finishing medium to long. Drinking now, it should remain fresh to 2014.

## Leeuwin Estate

### **93+ points** 2009 Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay Art Series

The 2009 Art Series Chardonnay has a wonderfully fragrant nose of honeysuckle, tropical fruits and nectarines over nuances of pink grapefruit and allspice. Full-bodied and richly fruited in the mouth, it is surprisingly harmonious at this youthful stage with a backbone of medium to high acid balancing the ripe, expressive fruit. The finish is long with plenty of tropical fruit layers. Delicious now, it should cellar to 2020+.

### **91+ points** 2008 Leeuwin Estate Cabernet Sauvignon Art Series

Medium to deep garnet colored, the 2008 Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon is scented of creme de cassis, mulberries, pencil lead and cloves over nuances of sandalwood and cinnamon stick. Medium-bodied with crisp acid and a medium level of very finely grained tannins, it fills the mouth with evolved berry and savory / earthy flavors, finishing long and layered. Approachable now, it should continue to cellar to 2019+.

### **91 points** 2009 Leeuwin Estate Shiraz Art Series

Deep garnet colored, the 2009 Art Series Shiraz displays tantalizing scents of kirsch, blackberry preserves and spice cake with suggestions of smoked bacon and yeast extract plus a whiff of Provence herbs. Medium-bodied with just enough blackberry and savory flavors, it has a medium level of grainy tannins and crisp acid, finishing long and spicy. Delicious now, it should continue to drink to 2018+.

### **90 points** 2011 Leeuwin Estate Riesling Art Series

The 2011 Art Series Riesling has a beautifully perfumed nose of frangipani, orange blossom and fresh lime juice with suggestions of yuzu zest, coriander seed and under-ripe pineapple. Dry, light-bodied, crisp and with a great intensity of citrus and tropical fruit flavor layers in the mouth, it finishes long and tangy. Approachable and tempting to drink now in this youthful, primary stage, it should cellar gracefully and keep to 2020+.

### **89 points** 2010 Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay Prelude Vineyards

The 2010 Prelude Chardonnay offers notes of honeyed peaches, jasmine, orange blossom and ripe pears with nuances of nutmeg and ginger. Medium-bodied with plenty of mouth-filling spiced stone fruit and pear flavors, it has lively acid and a long clean finish. Drink this one now to 2016.

### **88 points** 2009 Leeuwin Estate Shiraz Siblings

Medium to deep garnet in color, the 2009 Siblings Shiraz has aromas of warm plums, mulberries and blueberry compote with underlying hints of allspice and white pepper. Medium-bodied with a good concentration of ripe, ready-to-drink blackberry and spice flavors, it is nicely textured with a medium level of rounded tannins and has lively acid to give lift through the long finish. Drink it now to 2015.

### **87 points** 2011 Leeuwin Estate Sauvignon Blanc / Semillon Siblings

Blended of 73% Sauvignon Blanc and 27% Semillon, the 2011 Siblings Sauvignon Blanc Semillon gives notes of fresh grapefruit, white peaches and lemons with just a hint of yeastiness. Medium-bodied with a good amount of citrus flavors in the mouth, it has a great backbone of lively acid and a medium to long finish. Drink it now through 2013.

## Plantagenet

### **90+ points** 2010 Plantagenet Wines Shiraz

Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Shiraz gives developing notes of blackberry tart, warm mulberries and dried plum with hints of salami and Chinese five spice. Medium-bodied with just

enough expressive warm blackberry, pepper and spice flavors, it has refreshing acid and a medium level of rounded tannins, finishing long. Delicious now, it should keep to 2018+.

**90 points**      **2009 Plantagenet Wines Cabernet Sauvignon**

Deep garnet colored, the 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon is showing the first signs of evolution with notes of ripe black currants, blackberry tart and mulberries, plus touches of black olives, yeast extract and aged meat. Medium-bodied and elegantly fruited in the mouth, it has a solid structure of firm grainy tannins and crisp acid, finishing long and savory. Drinking very nicely now, it should continue to cellar to 2018+.

**90 points**      **2011 Plantagenet Wines Mt Barker Riesling**

The 2011 Mt Barker Riesling offers vibrant lime juice and green apple notes with nuances of steel and honeyed lemon. Dry and light-bodied in the mouth, it gives mouthwatering citrus and mineral flavors and a long finish. It should drink best 2013 to 2019+.

**87 points**      **2010 Plantagenet Wines Mt Barker Chardonnay**

The 2010 Mt Barker Chardonnay has a distinctly nutty / savory nose of yeast extract and raw hazelnuts over a core of grapefruit and fresh pear aromas. Medium-bodied with plenty of mouth-filling apple, pear and nut flavors, it has a lively acid backbone and a long finish. Drinking well now, it should keep to 2015.

**87 points**      **2010 Plantagenet Wines Omrah Cabernet Merlot**

Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Omrah Cabernet-Merlot is scented of warm black plums, mulberries and fertile soil with a touch of Mediterranean herbs. Medium-bodied with plenty of ripe, plummy flavors, it has a solid structure of crisp acid and medium to firm chewy tannins, finishing with medium to long persistence. Drink this one now to 2015.

**86 points**      **2010 Plantagenet Wines Shiraz Omrah**

Medium to deep garnet in color, the 2010 Omrah Shiraz displays a nose of kirsch, warm blackberries and tar with hints of black pepper and smoked meat. Medium-bodied with just enough expressive black pepper and black cherry flavors on the palate, it has a medium level of rounded tannins and racy acid, finishing medium-long. Drinking well now, it should keep through 2014.

**86 points**      **2011 Plantagenet Wines Omrah Pinot Noir**

Pale ruby in color with a slight purple hue, the 2011 Omrah Pinot Noir offers a pronounced nose of warm red cherries, raspberry compote and crushed cranberries with a whiff of mint. Medium-bodied, it has a good amount of straightforward mouth fruit in the mouth with lively acid and soft tannins, finishing medium-long. Drink it now through 2014.

**86 points**      **2011 Plantagenet Wines Omrah Sauvignon Blanc**

The 2011 Omrah Sauvignon Blanc has a pronounced nose of gooseberries, asparagus and peas with underlying apple and pear hints. Light to medium-bodied, it offers a good amount of straightforward apple and herbal flavors with refreshing acid and a medium to long finish. Drink it now through 2013.

**86 points**      **2011 Plantagenet Wines Chardonnay Unoaked Omrah**

The 2011 Omrah Unoaked Chardonnay has aromas of ripe golden delicious apple, peaches and apricot kernels with a touch of mace. Medium-bodied, clean and refreshing in the mouth, it gives a good concentration of peach and warm apple flavors with a medium long finish. Drink it now to 2014.