

CULLEN



MARGARET RIVER



## 2009 CULLEN 'KEVIN JOHN' CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Vanya Cullen  
 REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia  
 VARIETALS: Chardonnay  
 MATURATION: 9 months, 100% new French oak  
 ALCOHOL: 13.4% alc./vol | TA 7.35 g/l | 3.09 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:

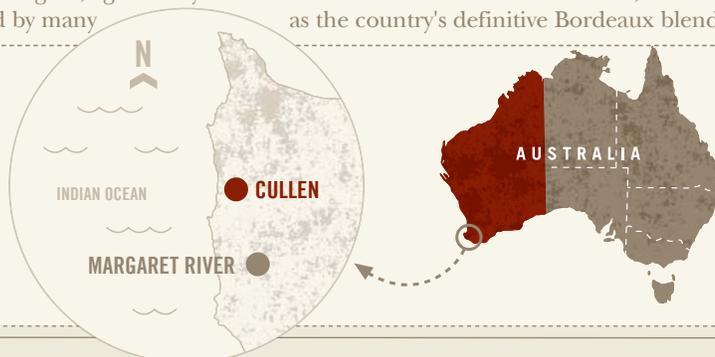
2009 was a dream vintage with perfect harmony and balance! This Chardonnay was made from fruit grown on three separate blocks, in which the loamy surface soil overlays laterite and clay. The oldest Chardonnay vines were planted in 1976 and the youngest in 1988. The antiquity of the vines helps account for the complexity of the wine. The fruit was picked at intervals over two weeks. It was then whole bunch pressed using a basket press and the juice fermented employing wild yeasts. The wine was matured for nine months in new French oak and bottled following minimal fining and filtration.

### TASTING NOTES:

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

**TICAL ACCLAIM:** 97 pts Australian Wine Companion, 94+ pts Robert Parker, 92 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast

**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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