



Jancis Robinson Online October 8, 2015:

18/20 Cullen Diana Madeline 2013

Very fresh and spicy nose. Sweet start and lovely texture. Not a step wrong. Amazing to be able to enjoy it now. It's what you want Margaux to be. Dry finish and very neat and confident. The opposite of brash.

18/20 Cullen Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 1991

Called Diana Madeline from 2001. Vanya started in 1988 and Di was very much around. Warm vintage. Dark ruby with a rusty rim. Big, sweet and dusty. Round, dusty balsam. Sweet and somehow rather Italianate. Some dustiness. Quarter century old! Still very subtle. Lightly tarry. Very clean finish.

17.5/20 Cullen Kevin John Chardonnay 2013

Leesy and just a hint of struck match. Refined lemon fruit and some creaminess. Very vibrant and pure. Great balance. So neat, composed and beautifully harmonious.

17.5/20 Cullen Amber 2014

Pale apricot colour. Light peachy nose. Very tangy. Some impression of sweetness. Very vibrant and characterful. Good lift to it. Not too extreme. Vanya Cullen makes it to 'have fun'. Long and vibrato. The produce of a very good vintage.



17.5/20 Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay 2012

Quite rich and ambitious on the nose. Pretty burgundian really. Spicy nose. Lots of substance and lots of acidity. A really long-term player - but it no longer has the field to itself!

17/20 Cullen Mangan Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2006

Very rich but with wonderfully pure acidity.

17/20 John Duval Entity Shiraz 2012

Mid crimson. Really racy and 'mineral' on the nose. So unlike the old Oz stereotypes! Very polished. Not ridiculously priced.

17/20 Plantagenet Shiraz 2010

Mid ruby. Very attractive scent. Quite a bit of evolution and rich interest but not at all sweet. Just at peak now with a few fine tannins remaining.

16.5/20 Cullen Mangan Sauvignon Blanc/Semillon 2014

Very pale greenish straw. Lots of waxiness and greenness on the palate. Still very youthful.

16.5/20 Cullen Mangan East Block 2012

Dark crimson. Very fresh, aromatic, sweet, perfumed red Bordeaux nose. Bone dry. Not that long but lovely on the nose.

16.5/20 Cullen Mangan Malbec/Petit Verdot 2014

Dark purplish crimson. A little raw on the nose. Intense.

16.5/20 Jasper Hill Georgia's Paddock Shiraz 2012

The ripe sweetness of the fruit is a shock after the Chave Hermitage just tasted. Smells a little minty/medicinal but lots of mulberry and blackberry. Rich and sweet on the palate too, with a touch of char, though I am sure it would taste less sweet in another context. Some vanilla sweetness on the finish and an aftertaste of spice. Long.



16.5/20 John Duval Annexus Grenache 2013

Mid crimson. Lots of whole bunch 'to keep it savory'. Fresh and racy on the nose. Lots of chew but no chocolate nor alcohol – or just the tiniest bit of heat on the end. Not remotely like Châteauneuf!

16+/20 Giant Steps Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay 2014

Very pale. Leesy nose and quite rich on the palate but then laced up with masses of acidity. A tad dry on the end. Great tingle.

16/20 Cullen Semillon/Sauvignon Blanc 2003

Deeper pale gold. Screwcaps have imbued longevity. Less direct than the 2006s on the nose. Less exuberant. Slightly tired vegy quality.

16/20 Chambers Rosewood Rutherglen Muscat

Lightly waxy nose, the merest hint of varnish, and then very firm with a greenish streak in the undoubted fruit. Sweet, fun, with a powdery finish. Very vibrant fruit – much more interesting than I was expecting! Long. Not that much acidity but good grip. A hint of grapefruit peel. In the blossom spectrum. Bravo!

16/20 Plantagenet Riesling 2013

Herbal nose. Bone dry. Real tingle factor. Good matching of variety and place! Hint of dill? Very firm finish.

16/20 Leeuwin Estate Prelude Vineyards Chardonnay 2011

Correct and fresh. Green streaks throughout. This is quite an age for a non top-of-the-line Chardonnay! Very crystalline but it falls away just a little on the end.

16/20 Jasper Hill Georgia's Paddock Riesling 2014

Organic. Surprisingly strong tertiary aromas already. Kerosene as well as lime. Very crisp, almost tart. It may be the context but I find this a bit masochistic – acidity dominating the fruit. I was more impressed when I tasted it 6 months ago.