



2015 CULLEN WINES DIANA MADELINE CABERNET MERLOT

Review Summary



98 pts/Top 100 Wines of 2017 “It is inappropriate to use the word ‘elegant’ in describing the wine, simply because it is on another, higher level, making the word hackneyed in this instance. The fragrant bouquet, the silky palate and perfectly shaped tannins of the finish are unique to this wine, which is made with endless care and patience by Vanya Cullen and her team.”

**James Halliday, Australian Wine Companion
2018**

98 pts “I don’t think I have tasted a more elegant and refined Diana Madeline than this one. It is a stunning expression of all that is superb about Margaret River and the Cullen vineyard. A leafy tobacco and dark fruit combo on the nose. But it is the palate that sets it apart. Chalky tannins, fine-grained oak and such gloriously expressive fruit. One of the very finest Diana Madelines I have tasted.”

**Ray Jordan, The West Australian
May 27, 2017**

97 pts/Top 50 Margaret River buys – #23 “The Cullen flagship red has an intriguing note of violets and is so soft and plush that it demands attention. Vibrant blackcurrant and mulberry flavors, impressive weight and restrained power. Sublime.”

**Peter Forrester, Decanter
December 2017**

94 pts “Despite exhibiting a bit of youthful austerity, the 2015 Diana Madeline should mature into an exemplary representation of Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon (there’s 11% Merlot, 1% Malbec and 1% Cabernet Franc in the blend). It’s classic Bordeaux in style, meaning it’s medium-bodied and streamlined and framed by firm but ripe tannins. Cassis fruit forms the core, although hints of cedar oak, pressed flowers and dried herbs add considerable nuance, picking up notes of chocolate on the taut, lingering finish. It’s an early candidate for Cabernet Sauvignon of the vintage in Margaret River.”

**Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker Wine Advocate
December 2017**



93 pts “Vanya Cullen named this wine for her mother, who took on winemaking at the family estate after she and her husband decided to plant vines in 1971. The property on Caves Road, now farmed under biodynamics, produces refined, currant-scented cabernets, including this concentrated 2015 (93 percent cabernet, with merlot, malbec and petite verdot). It’s a ripe, silken red, with substantial graphite-smooth tannins that are more than matched by its length of fruit. This will age with grace.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine
October 2018

93 pts “There’s a restrained power here. Currant and blueberry flavors are tightly wound and slow to show off details of nutmeg, French roast coffee, dried sage, porcino mushroom and cedar. Polished tannins give this extra dimension.”

MaryAnn Worobiec, Wine Spectator
December 31, 2017

93 pts “Lovely sweet-tobacco, forest-flower and currant aromas. Full body and chewy, juicy tannins that turn savory and delicious... From biodynamically grown grapes.”

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
July 17, 2017

Wine of the Week “This is the new release of one of Australia’s most complete wines; a Margaret River classic that offers quite spectacular value given the prices now being asked for other Australian icon reds. This is seriously worthy of 98/100 in a world of frequently overblown scores. There are a lot of big-name Bordeaux blends not in the same class as this; a single-vineyard blend of 87% cabernet sauvignon, 11% merlot, 1% malbec and 1% cabernet franc from another standout West Australian vintage. Think classic blackcurrant and violet notes, along with stoney minerality, leafy elements and dark chocolate nuances. Impeccably balanced with fine-grained tannins, this is beautiful now but will almost certainly develop over a decade or more. A work of vinous art that’s worth taking out an overdraft for.”

Winsor Dobbin, WDWineoftheWeek.blogspot.com.au
July 11, 2017