

CULLEN



MARGARET RIVER



2016 CULLEN 'KEVIN JOHN' CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Vanya Cullen
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 10 months in French oak barriques (31% new)
ALCOHOL: 13.5% alc./vol

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 sixth 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:

The 2016 growing season was favorable with good spring rains and warm conditions through ripening. The 40-year-old Chardonnay vines produced low yields of incredible fruit. After being harvested by hand the whole bunches were pressed into barriques and fermented with wild yeast in barriques. The wines underwent natural malolactic fermentation and matured for 10 months in oak.

TASTING NOTES:

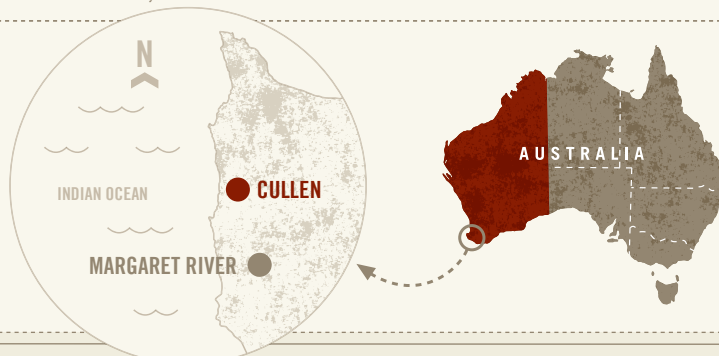
A perfumed nose with notes of nectarine, white flowers and citrus which are enhanced by the barrel ageing. The palate is multilayered and already complex, combining white peach, nectarine and some creamy notes. The vibrant fruit flavors are wonderfully balanced by the savory minerality. The wine can be cellared with confidence for at least 10 years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

96 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 95 pts Wine Enthusiast, 90 pts Wine & Spirits

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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