

2017 CULLEN

KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Vanya Cullen
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 5 months in French oak barriques (30% new)
ALCOHOL: 13.5% alc/vol

A 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: After being harvested by hand on fruit and flower days, the whole bunches were pressed into barriques and fermented with wild yeast. The wines underwent natural malolactic fermentation and matured for 5 months in French oak, 30% of which were new. Biodynamic and carbon negative.

TASTING NOTES: A perfumed nose with notes of pears, white flowers and citrus which are lifted by the barrel ageing. The palate is very fine and already complex, combining Anjou pear, white nectarine and some almond notes. The vibrant fruit flavors are wonderfully balanced by the natural acid structure. The wine can be cellared with confidence for at least 10 years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 97 pts JamesSuckling.com, 97 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 95 pts/Cellar Selection 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, integrity, and biodynamics has positioned Cullen as one of Australia's finest estates. Vanya Cullen, the founders' daughter, chief winemaker for more than 30 years, and 2019 Winemaker of the Year, is one of the country's trailblazers not only in biodynamics but also by establishing Australia's first certified carbon neutral winery.

