



## CULLEN WINES

Margaret River, Western Australia

*"Vanya Cullen spearheaded a movement to biodynamic viticulture. She feels the wines are more complete than before. Indeed, today, they are well-calibrated, precise and focused."*

- Erik Asimov, New York Times, 2019



Vanya Cullen

**OWNER:** The Cullen Family

**FOUNDED:** 1971 by Kevin & Diana Cullen

**WINEMAKER:** Vanya Cullen

**SIZE:** 69 acres

**HARVEST:** End February to late April

**CLIMATE:** Mediterranean

**ANNUAL  
RAINFALL:** 45 inches

**VINEYARD:** Biodynamically farmed and dry-grown

**SOILS:** Granite and gravelly sandy loam over lateritic subsoils

**VARIETIES  
PLANTED:** **Cullen Vineyards:** Cabernet Sauvignon (28.0 acres), Chardonnay (18.4 acres), Sauvignon Blanc (13.6 acres), Merlot (3.2 acres), Semillon (2.8 acres), Pinot Noir (2.3 acres), Cabernet Franc (1.0 acres). **Mangan Vineyard:** Petit Verdot (13.4 acres), Sauvignon Blanc (11.9 acres), Semillon (9.8 acres), Merlot (7.6 acres), Malbec (6.2 acres).

**WEBSITE:** [www.cullenwines.com.au](http://www.cullenwines.com.au)



The Cullen vineyard, situated just two miles from the Indian Ocean



**PROFILE:** A founding winery of Margaret River, Cullen Wines 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 greatest estates - and Margaret River as one of the nation's premier wine-producing regions. Vanya Cullen, the founders' daughter and chief winemaker for more than 30 years is one of the country's trailblazers leading the way in not only biodynamics but also as Australia's first certified carbon neutral winery.

**VITICULTURE:** The Cullen vineyard is one of Margaret River's greatest viticultural sites. Carefully selected by founders Kevin and Diana Cullen, the well-draining, gravelly soils are complemented by a maritime climate of warm, sun-filled days tempered by the surrounding Indian and Southern oceans. The mature, low-yielding vineyard is dry-grown, hand-tended and trellised according to variety. In addition, since taking the reins in 1989, Vanya Cullen has steered the estate through biodynamic certification, with the aim of optimizing soil health and achieving a pure expression of site. This union of outstanding natural attributes and constant evolution provides Cullen with a rare platform from which to craft benchmark quality, terroir driven wines.

# THE WINES

The Cullen wines represent the pinnacle of Margaret River's premium offering. The mature, biodynamically farmed vineyard produces elegant, age-worthy wines that draw world-wide critical acclaim, including what is regarded by many as the country's definitive Bordeaux blend.



**Dancing in the Sun:** Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Verdehlo. The moon is the most important planet in Cullen's biodynamic practice and the sun gives us life...both are honored in the naming of this wine.

**Ephraim Clarke:** A tribute to Vanya's greatgrandfather, Ephraim. He was the first of the Cullens to show an affinity with the vine, having planted vines in 1881 in Western Australia's South West. This fresh, vibrant blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon, complexed by barrel fermentation, is a regional speciality.

**Kevin John Chardonnay:** Rated among the nation's greatest Chardonnays. and sourced from Cullen's old chardonnay vines planted in 1976-1988. They are Gin Gin Clone, also known as the Old Wente Clone originally from UC Davis. They produce tiny yields of the best quality fruit.

**Red Moon:** A Red Moon occurs during a total lunar eclipse when the light filtering through the Earth's atmosphere dapples the moon in red light. This wine was made from a carefully selected blend of Malbec, Petit Verdot and Merlot grown on the Mangan Vineyard.

**Cabernet Merlot:** This wine displays densely flavored ripe dark fruits, complemented by discrete fine-grained tannins.

**Diana Madeline:** These old vine Cabernet Sauvignon Houghton clones (8 different clones) were planted in 1971 on their own roots and are destined for the flagship wine Diana Madeline, a tribute to founder Diana Madeline Cullen. A natural wine with elegance, balance and power.

**Vanya:** Only made in rare and extraordinary vintages. Layers of primary fruit flavors with a plethora of savory and secondary notes. Beautifully constructed and elegant with intensely pure flavors and silky tannins. With careful cellaring this wine will continue to develop for 30 years or more.



**WINEMAKING:** The foundation of the Cullen winemaking philosophy is to achieve optimum site expression with minimal intervention. Having inherited a vineyard that yields some of the Margaret River region's most distinctive fruit, Vanya Cullen all but lets the wines make themselves. The team painstakingly hand-sorts all fruit, makes use of indigenous yeasts, avoids all winemaking additions, uses French oak judiciously and minimizes fining and filtering prior to bottling. In this way, the Cullens are working with nature rather than attempting to control it, therein allowing the wines to be defined by a sense of place rather than winemaking techniques.



Cullen's small, biodynamically certified winery



Vanya Cullen and Cullen founder, Diana Cullen



Hand tending the dry-grown vineyard