

# 2017 CULLEN

## EPHRAIM CLARKE



**WINEMAKER:** Vanya Cullen  
**REGION:** Margaret River, Western Australia  
**VARIETALS:** Sauvignon Blanc (79%), Semillon (21%)  
**MATURATION:** 40% for 3 months in French oak barriques (7% new)  
**ALCOHOL:** 12.5% alc/vol

**QUALITY, INTEGRITY, SUSTAINABILITY:** The Cullen vineyard and winery is carbon neutral, biodynamically farmed and dry-grown with an 'A' grade certification from the Biological Farmers Association. Grapes are the only ingredients in Cullen wines.

**VINTAGE NOTES:** As usual, this blend contains a greater volume of Sauvignon Blanc than Semillon, which reflects the outstanding qualities of the fruit produced by the former variety on the Cullen Vineyard. The 2017 vintage did present some challenges starting with a cooler than average spring and culminating in a relatively wet March which made picking decisions tricky. Hard work and attention to detail paid off with stunning results in terms of both quality and yield particularly for the Sauvignon Blanc component.

**TASTING NOTES:** A delightful combination of fresh cut grass, spicy and vanilla oak aromas supported by tropical notes. The palate is vibrant and complex with the barrel fermentation contribution playing a seamless secondary role. A brilliant example of this classic blend and a wine that will cellar for up to 15 years.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 95 pts/Top-Rated Semillon Sauvignon Blanc Blends Halliday Wine Companion, 93 pts/Editors' Choice Wine Enthusiast, 91 pts Wine Spectator

**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.

