

2017 CULLEN WINES KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



97 pts/TOP - RATED CHARDONNAY “Estate-grown, hand-picked, whole-bunch pressed, wild-fermented (including mlf) in barriques, amphorae and a ceramic egg, blended and matured in French oak (30% new) for 5 months. Splendidly complex, yet singular in its mouthfeel and length. Its finish is its greatest strength, on another plane.”

James Halliday, Halliday Wine Companion
2020

97 pts/TOP 100 WINES OF AUSTRALIA 2019 (#15)

“This has a lemon-cream edge to the nose with white peaches and a gentle edge of grilled hazelnuts, pie crust and pastry. The palate is super fresh, lithe and juicy with a tangy core of white-peach and lemon and lime-sorbet flavor that holds the finish. So elegant yet concentrated and long.”

Nick Stock, JamesSuckling.com
December 3, 2019

95 pts/CELLAR SELECTION “This highly lauded wine from one of Margaret River’s greats is crafted for the long haul. It shows notes of oyster shell and ground white pepper, with lemon and pineapple rinds at the fore. The palate offers a beautiful texture, length and outstanding complexity. It would be a crime to drink this now when such rewards are sure to come to those who wait.”

Christina Pickard, Wine Enthusiast
April 2020

95 pts “Pale gold. Powerful aromas of fresh peach, pear nectar and jasmine, along with suggestions of vanillin oak, saffron and smoky minerals. Fleshy and seamless in texture, showing superb depth as well as energy to the juicy orchard and pit fruit flavors. Finishes silky, tightly focused and impressively long, with repeating vanilla and mineral notes and a bracing suggestion of bitter lemon pith.”

Josh Reynolds, Vinous
July 2021



95 pts “With cooler than average spring and summer temperatures, the harvest took place between 8 February and 6 March. This wine was naturally fermented (including malol) in a combination of barriques, amphorae and ceramic eggs, then aged for five months in French oak, 30% new. Notes of bay leaf, nutty kernel and floral riffs nuance the athletic white peach and pear fruit. Lively lemony acidity brings levity and line to the palate, although this is still limbering up and could score higher in time.”

Rebecca Gibb MW, Decanter
October 2019

94 pts “The 2017 Kevin John Chardonnay features gentle notes of toast and honey overlaid on a core of fig, citrus fruit and white peaches. Medium-bodied, it’s creamy in texture yet taut and crisp, with a long finish that ends on a dusty, phenolic note. It should drink well for a decade or so.”

Joe Czerwinski, Robert Parker Wine Advocate
January 2020

91 pts “This is Vanya Cullen’s top selection of chardonnay from the family’s biodynamic estate. She ferments it without added yeasts in French Oak barrels (30 percent of them new), then leaves it to age for five months. It’s an earthy wine with scents of chamomile flowers; leesiness dominates the wine for now, but it’s the fruit that lasts, in a long white line of buttered-peach savor. This needs a few years in the cellar to fully evolve.”

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits
October 2020

92 pts “Precise and focused, with terrific purity and juiciness to the pear, Meyer lemon and dried pineapple flavors. Hints of butterscotch, spice and dried flowers linger on the finish.”

MaryAnn Worobiec, Wine Spectator
April 30, 2020