

## 2018 CULLEN WINES DIANA MADELINE CABERNET MERLOT



### Review Summary

**99 pts** “This is a superb edition of this revered, cabernet-based blend with such complete, seamless and elegant feel, yet there’s such depth of flavor, too. Aromas of fresh redcurrants, red and violet flowers, subtle spice, fresh earth, paper bark, fresh-picked thyme and sage, red berries and some cedary notes. The palate is stunning and has a brand of elegance with power that is found in only the greatest wines. Pristine mulberries, red plums, blueberries and red cherries sail through layers of fine tannin, into an unwaveringly long and vibrant finish. An exceptionally concentrated and convincing Diana Madeline release, this is one of their finest. A blend of 79% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 5% malbec.”

Nick Stock  
JamesSuckling.com  
April 28, 2020

**98 pts** “Authoritative, with blackcurrant and mulberry fruit nuanced by deep notes of tobacco, bitter chocolate, currant leaf, dried rose and cedar. With beautifully understated gravitas, the fine-textured graphite tannins and incisive acidity sustain a long, penetrating finish. Reflecting ideal harvest conditions, fruit for this ultra-composed Bordeaux blend was picked over one month on fruit and flower days, including a full-moon fruit day, then part-fermented in amphorae, before ageing in 80% biodynamic barrels (50% new).”

Sarah Ahmed  
Decanter  
June 10, 2020

**97 pts** “Glass-staining violet. Highly perfumed, spice- and mineral-accented red and blue fruit, exotic spice, potpourri and incense aromas show superb clarity and pick up hints of woodsmoke, cured tobacco and vanilla with aeration. Sweet, seamless and incisive on the palate, offering intense blueberry, cherry liqueur, spicecake and candied rose flavors and a hint of cracked pepper. Deepens steadily through the extremely persistent finish, which features youthfully gripping tannins and resonating floral and blue fruit notes. 50% new French oak.”

Josh Reynolds  
Vinous  
July 15, 2021



**97 pts** “Deep, bright, youthful, concentrated purple/red colour which stains the glass. The aroma is fresh and young, fruit-driven and impressively concentrated; essency, with masses of blueberry, cassis, violet and blackberry flavours, underlined by a firm tannin backbone. There is cedar aplenty and loads of cabernet character. The tannins are very firm and it needs more time to mellow. The concentration has ramped up to a new level here. A high-quality wine of enormous potential. (79% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot, 6% cabernet franc, 5% malbec, aged in 50% new oak).”

**Huon Hooke**  
**The Real Review**  
**March 18, 2020**

**96 pts/CELLAR SELECTION** “This vintage of Diana Madeline (a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant Bordeaux-style blend) is a classic. While still tightly wound and set for the long haul, this vintage is a little more expressive in youth than previous ones. Cherry and brambly berry nestle amid iodine, tomato leaf, dark chocolate, graphite and savory, herbal characters. The palate is austere but harmonious, with length, depth, concentration and powerful yet fine tannins. A must for any Cab-lover’s cellar.

**Christina Pickard**  
**Wine Enthusiast**  
**August 31, 2021**

**92 pts** “This distinctive red shows terrific finesse, with gunpowder tea and malty, toasty notes mingling with a dense core of currant and spiced plum flavors. Ends with tobacco and spice flavors on the finish, with a note of salty black licorice.”

**MaryAnn Worobiec**  
**Wine Spectator**  
**June 4, 2021**