

2019 CULLEN WINES KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



98 pts “As usual, the Kevin John arrives with an aura about it ... it undulates in the mouth, whipping and changing like Melbourne weather, 4 seasons in one day. It has exotic market spice, ripe orchard fruit, orange blossom, turmeric, saffron curls and saline acid. It’s extraordinarily long, incredibly exciting and with phenolic texture that elevates it beyond the excitement that it delivers. Through it all meanders a coastal breeze, keeping it light and airy; the thundering power of Gingin fruit is concealed under many folds of flavour!”

Erin Larkin
Halliday Wine Companion
August 12, 2021

97 pts “Cullen’s flagship Chardonnay, from vines planted in the 1970s and ‘80s, saw its lowest yield in 25 years. A shame, considering how darn delicious it is. Its golden color suggests richness right off the bat that’s confirmed at first sniff. Intense, yet still-fresh aromas of caramel and flint thread seamlessly with kiwi, lemon-lime and wild herbs. The palate walks a tightrope of power and elegance. Toasty oak notes make way for pure, juicy fruit. Long, complex in texture, with fabulous, mineral acidity, this drinks beautifully now but can age for several decades, until 2040 at least!”

Christina Pickard
Wine Enthusiast
April 29, 2022

98 pts “The new release of a Cullen chardonnay is a big moment and the 2019 is right on form. Winemaker Vanya Cullen’s label informs us the grapes were harvested according to the lunar phases, and aged in biodynamic oak barrels. The wine has a medium to light-straw hue and a savory, mineral aroma with notes of wheat biscuit, malt, almond-meal and lemon, the palate very intense and yet understated, with a savory dryness in its lingering aftertaste. The palate has outstanding tension, refinement and length. It’s still a little reserved, and reveals more of its complex array of aromas and flavors the more you taste it. It will live long and evolve superbly with cellaring. Outstanding!”

Huon Hooke
The Real Review
January 4, 2021



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96 pts “Rare frost scythed Cullen’s typically tiny old-vine Gin Gin clone yields by 60%, resulting in phenomenal concentration. Yet there is detail through layering and white flower and bay leaf lift. Toast and butterscotch notes speak of oak (30% new) and 100% malolactic fermentation, but are subsumed by powerful ripe peach, mandarin, fig and custard apple, cut with lime acidity; a parcel was whole-bunch fermented in amphorae. Intense and lingering.”

Sarah Ahmed
Decanter
July 28, 2021

95 pts “Translucent, green-hued gold. An expansive, mineral-driven bouquet evokes fresh citrus and orchard fruits, iodine, buttered toast and chamomile. Shows impressive depth and fine definition to the vibrant tangerine, Anjou pear, sweet butter and tarragon flavors, which tighten up slowly through the back half. Powerful yet graceful in style, displaying sharp focus and mineral thrust on an impressively long, chewy finish that features lingering floral and orange pith notes.”

Josh Reynolds
Vinous
July 15, 2021

92 pts “Delivers mouthwatering tangerine, Meyer lemon and pear flavors that mingle with spice, toasted brioche and butterscotch. The sleek, juicy finish features a touch of marmalade.”

MaryAnn Worobiec
Wine Spectator
December 1, 2021