

## 2021 CULLEN WINES KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY

### Review Summary



**98 pts** “Gosh, where do you start with this exceptional chardonnay that marks the 50th year of winemaking at Cullen. Harvested across 3 weeks, including fruit and flower days, and fermented naturally in biodynamic barrels, concrete eggs and amphorae. This wine was matured in 35% new puncheons for 8 months before bottling without fining or filtration. There’s a subtle aromatic fragrance of spice and cumquat. The palate is precise and defined by its length and linear profile. When tasted, it was still coiled and tight as a drum with a savory and slightly struck match complexity. Very long cellaring potential, and just when you think Vanya Cullen and her team have pushed things to the limit, they push again. Such a pure expression of vineyard, season and region.”

Ray Jordan  
WinePilot  
June 2022

**97 pts** “Fruit for the 2021 Kevin John Chardonnay was picked over six dates (ranging from the 3rd of February to the 18th of February) on a range of flower and fruit days. Each pick was handled differently—a selection of basket pressing with and without whole bunches, into concrete eggs and French oak puncheons. The lower baume picks show startling numbers (acidity in Riesling territory); all of it went through wild fermentation and malolactic fermentation and matured for seven months before being bottled unfining and unfiltered. This is excellent, in short. The detail in the winemaking is obvious in the mouth—the acidity has been mitigated by the malolactic fermentation and is the source of the crushed nuts and toast undercurrent of flavor and intensity in the mouth. It billows, but it is also more “on the rails” than some of the previous, warmer vintages. This is very contained, yet true to the fruit power that defines the site.”

Erin Larkin  
Robert Parker Wine Advocate  
July 2022

**97 pts** “Matured in puncheons (35% new and of biodynamic origins) for eight months without further additions. The color pick-up is substantial, but there’s nothing in the bouquet that suggests premature aging, et al. It’s complex but harmonious, long and balanced. There’s more stone fruit, fig and melon than citrus, but that’s intentional, and in tune with the Wilyabrup subregion.”

James Halliday  
Halliday Wine Companion  
June 2023

## 2021 CULLEN WINES KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY p2 Review Summary



**97 pts** “The 2021 Chardonnay Kevin John is exceptional from start to finish. It is a beautifully pure and pristine expression of young Chardonnay that also carries excellent generosity of flavor. Precise grapefruit, pear, ginger and high quality spicy oak aromas provide a strong introduction. Energetic and vivacious, there is a delicious tension between crisp acidity and lively, youthful fruits, all beautifully balanced, before a long, chalky, zesty finish with extreme length. A benchmark Margaret River Chardonnay.”

Angus Hughson  
Vinous  
June 2022

**96 pts** “A sumptuous, textural Chardonnay from a shy-bearing year (just one ton of fruit per hectare), this shows honeyed ripe pear, vivid passionfruit curd, mandarin, fresh fig and white carob. Bountiful, yet controlled, an undertow of acidity buoys and carries the fruit. Sourced from the Wente clone, after whole-bunch pressing the grapes fermented mostly in barrel as well as concrete egg. A powerhouse, it effortlessly integrates 100% malolactic fermentation and ageing in 100% new oak.”

Sarah Ahmed  
Decanter  
September 2023