



Cullen,

`Diana Madeline` Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot 2022

Margaret River, Western Australia, Australia



PRODUCER

Cullen is one of the oldest and most awarded family wineries in Western Australia's famous Margaret River region. Certified biodynamic, carbon neutral and naturally powered, their philosophy is best summed up in three simple words: 'Quality, Integrity and Sustainability'. First established in Wilyabrup in 1971 by Dr Kevin and Diana Cullen and now run by their daughter Vanya, the winery has built an outstanding reputation for fine, certified biodynamic wines that receive critical acclaim both in Australia and internationally. In 2019, celebrating 30 years at the helm, Vanya received double Winemaker of the Year honours at both the Australian Women in Wine Awards and the Halliday Wine Companion Awards. In 2023, Vanya was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to viticulture and wine. Her unwavering dedication to biodynamic viticulture has inspired many like-minded winemakers across the world.

VINEYARDS

Located in Wilyabrup, 20 kilometres north of Margaret River township, the soils at the Cullen vineyard are old granite and gravelly, sandy loam, overlaying lateric subsoils. Planted in 1971, the Cabernet Sauvignon comprises 11.33 hectares, while the Merlot was planted in 1976 and covers 1.76 hectares. The conversion to biodynamic viticulture is believed to have produced better fruit, the character of which is preserved during the winemaking process.

VINTAGE

The 2022 vintage was fantastic for Cabernet Sauvignon, with warm conditions early in the growing season, followed by cooler temperatures, resulting in a longer ripening season and wines of immense perfume and texture. Lower yields contributed to excellent fruit quality and maintained the health of the vines. Harvest took place between 12th and 16th March.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were hand picked over five days and carefully sorted. Each variety was fermented separately with indigenous yeasts. Fermentation time ranged from 10 - 29 days, before the wine was gently basket-pressed to barrel. It matured for 14 months in French oak, of which 55% was new, in a mixture of biodynamic barriques and puncheons.

TASTING NOTES

Garnet in colour with youthful ruby-purple hues. Deeply perfumed on the nose with sumptuous aromas of mulberry, rich cherry, chocolate, wild rose and violet. Both light and intense on the palate, with a juicy fruit core of mulberry, plum and cherry. This unctuous fruit is framed by beautiful fine grained tannins and Wilyabrup earth and ironstone characters which express the warmth of the vintage and complements the concentration of the fruit.

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| Grape Varieties | 89% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Merlot 3% Cabernet Franc 3% Malbec |
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| Winemaker | Vanya Cullen |
| Closure | Screwcap |
| ABV | 13.5% |
| Residual Sugar | 0.95g/L |
| Acidity | 5.3g/L |
| Wine pH | 3.68 |
| Notes | Certified Biodynamic, Certified Organic, Vegetarian, Vegan |