



Cullen,

**`Red Moon` Wilyabrup Malbec/Grenache/Mourvedre/Petit Verdot/Merlot 2024**

**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**

This wine takes its name from the 'Red Moon' that occurs during a total lunar eclipse when the light filtering through the Earth's atmosphere dapples the moon in red light. In a change from previous vintages, two-thirds of the fruit was sourced from the neighbouring Metricup vineyard, located just 2 km from the winery. The remaining third was sourced from the Cullen vineyard. Both vineyards are located in the Wilyabrup sub-region, located 20 kilometres north of the Margaret River township. The soils are old, granite and gravely sandy loam, overlaying lateritic subsoils.

**VINTAGE**

2024 vintage was the hottest, driest and earliest harvest on record. Rainfall stopped at the end of September 2023, with nominally no rain until the season broke in May 2024. Unseasonable warmth all through the growing season combined with heatwaves in January meant harvest started early and was over extremely quickly. The ample marri blossom and dry conditions meant both bird and disease pressure were low, however there was concern over the water stress on the dry grown vines. But with sunshine comes flavour and 2024 does not disappoint in fruit weight and concentration. No rain and plenty of sun meant fruit was at optimal ripeness (albeit earlier than expected!) and created wines with great depth of flavour and extract. The reds display opulence and power that show great promise for the future.

**VINIFICATION**

Fruit was hand harvested on 12th, 13th and 21st February on two flower days and one fruit day. It was destemmed and fermented with indigenous yeasts, before maturing in old oak for 8 months. The wine was bottled with no additions or fining.

**TASTING NOTES**

This wine is all about the fruit and purity of expression. Attractive purple in colour with a bright magenta rim. The nose is full of juicy raspberry with tobacco, vanilla, savoury plum and raisins. The palate has remarkable structure with unctuous juicy red fruits lined with savoury plums and pomegranate. Well-orchestrated tannins support a long finish, with floral notes and an ironstone polish.

Grape Varieties	<b>33% Malbec</b> <b>23% Grenache</b> <b>22% Mourvèdre</b> <b>17% Petit Verdot</b> <b>5% Merlot</b>
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Winemaker	<b>Vanya Cullen</b>
Closure	<b>Screwcap</b>
ABV	<b>13.5%</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>
Notes	<b>Certified Biodynamic, Certified Organic, Vegetarian, Vegan</b>