

C U L L E N
M A R G A R E T R I V E R



2001 CABERNET SAUVIGNON MERLOT "Diana Madeline"

Region

Margaret River, Western Australia

Varieties

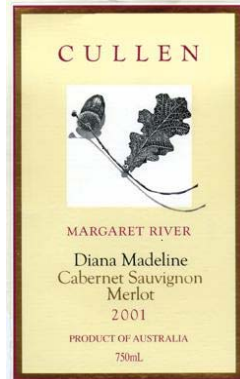
Cabernet Sauvignon 75%
Merlot 25%

Maturation

18 months in new or one year old
French barriques

Technical Analysis

14% alc/vol



Background

Pioneering winemakers of Margaret River, Diana and Dr. Kevin Cullen established their 72 acre vineyard in 1971. It is now regarded as one of Australia's greatest estates with the Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot considered the country's finest. Diana will always be remembered as one of the Australian wine industry's most remarkable and adored women. She was responsible for making the Cullen wines from 1981 until 1989 when she handed the reins to her highly talented daughter, Vanya, Australia's Winemaker of the Year in 2000.

The vineyard is organically farmed and dry grown and has 'A' grade certification with the Biological Farmers Association, after 3 years in conversion. Biodynamic certification is hoped for in 2004.

Vintage

The driest season in Margaret River for 126 years resulted in one of the most brilliant harvests in terms of evenness of temperature and therefore ripening. Both physiological development and acid retention were at an optimum. It is believed that the organic practices used at Cullen helped the flavor development in this dry vintage.

Tasting Notes

Even in this early stage of its development, this wine looks like its becoming the best Cullen Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot since the 1995 vintage. The long growing season, and particularly the late 'Indian' summer that prevailed in 2001, proved particularly beneficial for the cabernet sauvignon.

The intense colors of plum, red and purple lead to deep and fragrant aromas of blackcurrant, mulberry, violet and savory earth.

Picked at full physiological ripeness, the palate displays concentrated characters of rich cherry, mulberry and plum. The dense fruit is balanced with fine-grained, chalky tannins and clean acidity. Its structure, length and persistence of flavor suggest a cellaring life of at least 15 years.

Additional Notes:

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