

CULLEN



2004 CHARDONNAY

quality, integrity and sustainability

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 Chardonnay considered one of 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.

CULLEN
MARGARET RIVER



"One of the pioneers of Margaret River which has always produced long-lived wines of highly individual style from the substantial and mature estate vineyards. Winemaking is now in the hands of Vanya Cullen; she is possessed of an extraordinarily good palate. The Chardonnay is superb, while I would rate the Cabernet Merlot as Australia's best."

JAMES HALLIDAY

2004 Chardonnay

Region:

Margaret River, Western Australia

Varietal:

Chardonnay

Maturation:

5 months in new French oak

Technical Analysis:

14% alc./vol.

Tasting Notes:

Biodynamic techniques were used to produce the Chardonnay fruit, which ensures that the wine naturally reflects the vineyard characteristics. Seventy percent of the wine was fermented using wild yeasts, which contributes to the subtle mouth feel of this wine. This component was matured for just five months in new French oak to ensure that, while oak still had an influence, it remained in the background. Thirty percent of the wine was prevented from undergoing malolactic fermentation, which facilitates the retention of both freshness and natural acidity. Furthermore, that acid retention means that no acid is now required to be added to this wine style.

The 2004 Chardonnay is a bright and youthful green gold. This wine is an a complex blend of tropical fruit, nougat, lemon citrus and vanillin oak. The intense fruit characters, so delightfully expressed on the nose, flow through on to the palate where they are beautifully integrated with the subtle oak. These flavors lead into a refined, long and silky finish.

Drink now or cellar for five years to garner additional complexity.