



2006 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 12 months in 100% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.5% alc | 6.8 g/L TA | 3.39 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

A challenging growing season began with a cold, wet and windy spring resulting in the coolest summer on record and a late bud burst on all varieties. Flowering was 2-3 weeks later than usual, causing lower than average cropping levels, and harvest began on the latest date on record. With these low crops the wines produced have great intensity and varietal flavors.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was cool crushed with some skin contact. The juice was settled for 4 days, racked and inoculated with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in new French barriques with the lees stirred every two to three weeks over the 12 months. After 12 months in barrel, the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilised and bottled.

TASTING NOTES:

The nose shows the influence of the coolest growing season experienced in Margaret River with the usually dominate ripe stone fruit taking a backseat to the more refined grapefruit, granny smith apples and almonds. The palate shows incredible restraint with a youthful freshness of grapefruit and citrus characteristics. The wine is astonishingly focused across the palate with a lingering finish of citrus blossom, the wine evolves with a fine line of acid to help provide the remarkable length of flavour that persists in the mouth minutes after drinking.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 95 pts - Robert Parker, 94 pts/Cellar Selection - Wine Enthusiast, 94 pts - Wine Spectator, 93pts - Stephen Tanzer, 91 pts - Wine & Spirits

ABOUT LEEUWIN ESTATE:

After an extensive search in 1972 for the most suitable premium viticultural area in Australia, Robert Mondavi singled out the future site of Leeuwin Estate. Thrust into the international spotlight when their 1980 Art Series was awarded Decanter's highest recommendation, the Estate has since performed with stellar consistency, the Horgan family defending their position as one of Australia's leading wineries.



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