



## 2006 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

### Review Summary



**97 pts - Best of the Best by Variety** “Bright and youthful color; a complex array of nectarine, grapefruit and spice, particularly cinnamon on the bouquet; the palate exhibits understated power, with grilled nuts supporting the very generous, yet refined, level of stone fruit and oak; the finish is staggeringly long, fine and complex.”

**James Halliday’s Australian Wine Companion  
2010**

**97 pts** “Hailing from the coolest Margaret River vintage in history, this wine underwent more postfermentation sorting of parcels than any before it. The result absolutely swallows its 100% new oak. Incredible minerality, utter concentration and yet extreme finesse, it has length like none other than Le Montrachet itself.”

**Nick Stock & Tyson Stelzer, Wine100  
May 2009**

**97 pts – TOP 100 WINES OF 2009** “Bright and youthful color; a complex array of nectarine, grapefruit and spice, particularly cinnamon, is offered on the bouquet; the palate exhibits understated power, with grilled nuts supporting the very generous, yet refined, level of stone fruit and oak; the finish is staggeringly long, fine and complex. The adoption (since '05) of screwcaps has brought a collective sigh of relief from its many admirers. Drink: 2001. Maragret River produces Australia’s most complex chardonnays and this wine sits at the very top.”

**James Halliday, The Weekend Australian  
April 18-19, 2009**

**97 pts** “This was tasted a year ago at the estate but was buried in a longer post on a range of Leeuwin Estate wines - it's time it was given its own place on the site. This wine has not been re-tasted since this note was written in January 2008. To my tastes this is as good as a young Art Series gets. It's a fantastically restrained, lengthy, elegant wine, its mass of flavor coiled so tight and intricately that it almost presents as delicate. It tastes of grapefruit, fresh-cut lemons, toast, sawdusty oak and green apples. It is very, very long. This vintage was very cool, and it has produced an exceptionally tight, reserved, sophisticated wine that should age for a good long time. Not in-your-face and obvious, but classic. Drink: 2012 – 2018.”

**Campbell Mattinson, Winefront Monthly  
January 2009**



**97 pts** “One of the leanest and tightest Art Series, but you'd expect this from such a vintage. Nonetheless, there is great depth and power in the tight structure, with stacks of grapefruit meal and subtle roasted cashew. The cool year resulted in one of the highest malo contributions in Art Series but has added immeasurably to the wine. Need I say it, but this will be another great Leeuwin.”

**Ray Jordan, The West Australian, “Ray Jordan's WA Wine Guide”  
2009**

**96 pts** “Leeuwin Estate's Art Series is the true 'White Grange'; Australia's best white wine. Clear-yellow in the glass, Leeuwin Estate's 2006 Art Series unfolds to an elegant yet generously ripened nose, displaying quince, grapefruit and nectarine aromas with a restrained influence of butter/vanilla oak and cashew nuts. Incredibly textured in a full, smooth, creamy and well-weighted style, its ripe fruit flavors of banana, passionfruit and white stonefruits merge seamlessly with an extract of fresh cedar/vanilla oak, evolving into a delightfully persistent, very long finish framed by vibrant, polished, fluffy acids and lingering fruit. There's a faint candied aspect to its fruit core emanating from high alcohol (14.5%) and opulent ripeness, but it contains more than enough texture, depth, balance and length to handle it. Cut from a different mould than many refined, elegant and tight modern Australian chardonnays, the hedonistic 2006 Art Series is another exemplary drop, which further underlines its status as Australia's most consistently outstanding wine.”

**Chris Plummer, Australian Wine Journal  
June 18, 2009**

**95 pts** “Medium straw-colored, it offers up a superb perfume of pain grille, biscotti, baked apple, poached pear, and tropical notes. Creamy textured, elegant, and concentrated, this savory Chardonnay will evolve for several years and drink well through 2016.”

**Jay Miller, Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate  
December 2009**

**94 pts Cellar Selection** “Dramatic, with opulent honeyed peach and tropical fruit notes framed by smoky hints of roasted cashew and vanilla. Despite the flamboyant personality and full-bodied richness, there's also a sense of elegance, and an intense, lingering finish. Drink now-2014, although some folks swear the Art Series will go even longer.”

**Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast  
July 2010**

**94 pts** “Harmonious, complete and deftly balanced to emphasize pear, green guava and spice flavors, lingering effortlessly on a graceful, open-textured frame. Not as dramatic as some vintages, but so welcoming you want a second glass.”

**Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator  
November 30, 2009**



**93 pts** “Light gold. A complex, expressive bouquet evokes fresh pineapple, white peach, iodine, salty minerals and smoked meat. Pliant pit fruit and citrus flavors are complicated by notes of saffron and dusty minerals. The finish features strong licorice and bitter citrus pith qualities and hangs on with impressive tenacity. This deserves another four or five years of patience, at a minimum.”

**Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar**  
**July/August 2009**

**93 pts** “Superb definition and clarity on the nose with limestone, lime zest, tangerine and apricot. Very good vigor. The palate is sublime, very concentrated and viscous in texture, honeyed tones, grapefruit and melon, leading to an understated, very harmonious towards the finish. Wonderful.”

**Neil Martin, erobertparker.com**  
**May 2009**

**92 pts** “Quite restrained nose and backwards fruit aromas, so give this some good air. Primary and pure ripe stone fruits and figs build with some gentle, clean, flinty fruit characters arriving on the palate; sparkling clarity. Impressive evenness and a grapefruity finish. Peach skin, good drive and lingering richness.”

**Nick Stock, The Penguin Good Australian Wine Guide**  
**2010**

**91 pts** “It’s difficult to see past the full oak treatment of this wine and the initial hit of sulfur. Leave it for an hour or two in a decanter and the subtleties of the fruit begin to show, hinting at lilacs and something fresh and green to balance the broad, toasty richness. The flavors are long, and the wine needs several years in the cellar to feed on its oak. But Art Series has a track record of aging well, and this should be worth the wait.”

**Wine and Spirits Magazine**  
**October 2009**

**Top 100 of 2009** “Art Series Chardonnay makes its annual appearance at Australia House with metronomic regularity and this is because it is, and always has been, the most consistently brilliant Chardonnay in Australia. However, this means that every year it has to raise its game, and we are delighted to report that once again it has done just that. Flabber your ghastr and learn that this wine is made using 100% new oak, too, and you will see that the fruit in Art Series is of true Grand Cru quality! It is worth noting that 2007 Leeuwin Prelude Chardonnay is also on a high this year proving that this estate has a divine touch with this grape.”

**Matthew Jukes’ Top 100 of 2009**  
**May 2009**



“It was probably the creamiest of the lineup that we tasted that day, from a cool year, with vanilla notes prevalent and more apple aromas and flavors dominating, even a bit of grapefruit and nettle here and there.”

**Joe Roberts, [1winedude.com](http://1winedude.com)  
July 12, 2012**

“A splurge, certainly, but truly lovely — not to mention cellar-worthy. Offering layers of crisp green pear and apple, tropical melon, mineral, citrus and floral aromas and flavors that mingle elegantly through the pretty, generous finish. Every sip seems better than the one before. Should age beautifully over the next 10 years.”

**Robyn Tinsley, [www.wineskinny.com](http://www.wineskinny.com)  
September 2010**

“Art Series is on most lists of the top chardonnays and this '06 edition doesn't disappoint. It exemplifies Leeuwin's rich Margaret River style via seamless integration of concentrated stone fruit, creamy and nutty characters, a hint of burnt match, and skillfully handled oak. It has poise despite high alcohol, and a long, fine finish.”

**Ralph Kyte-Powell, [Epicure](http://Epicure)  
June 2009**

“Lively and grapefruity, with a dash of classy oak. The palate has it all – varietal character, freshness and texture. A beautifully balanced chardonnay that will definitely improve with age.”

**WineWise  
June 2009**

“SO, I'm just going to come straight out and say it; the 2006 Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay may well be the greatest white wine ever made in Australia. This is a big statement on a very subjective topic, but bear with me as I stumble through my reasoning...the reason I feel Leeuwin's 2006 Art Series Chardonnay should be seriously considered as Australia's greatest-ever white wine is not just its technical exactness or its blinding fruit quality or its seamlessly long intensity. It's more than that. I feel that this wine is now judging itself not against its own past vintages but against the very finest wines in the world. In doing so it carries the global flag for Australian wine and elevates our industry's opinion of itself and what we think we can achieve.”

**Scott Taylor, [WA Business News](http://WA Business News)  
May 2009**

“2006 Art Series is one of the very greatest vintages of one of Australia's top Chardonnays ever made. On a world scale, this is as good as Chardonnay ever gets anywhere outside of Burgundy. It strikes the quintessential balance between control and concentration, power and finesse. Its length is so heroic that minutes later nothing has changed the slightest bit in the mouth. As far as 'art labels' go, we would prefer this to a bottle of Mouton- Rothschild.”

**Matthew Jukes and Tyson Stelzer, [Taste Food & Wine](http://Taste Food & Wine)  
2009**