



2006 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CABERNET SAUVIGNON

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (91%), Malbec (9%)
MATURATION: 18 months in 50% new French oak barriques
ALCOHOL: 13.0% alc/vol.

VINTAGE NOTES:

The season kicked off very slowly and December turned into the coldest on record that led into the coolest summer in 45 years. Early season speculation about harvest being delayed by up to two weeks proved correct. The overall lack of rain coupled with the cool conditions served to intensify fruit flavors across all varieties. Red varieties required steely nerves with intake extending into early May.

BACKGROUND:

A Margaret River powerhouse, the Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon is made in a long lived style due to its ample fruit and sturdy frame. Often described as “Bordeaux like,” the core of the fruit comes from 25-year-old vines grown in well-draining gravel/granite derived soils. The Art Series range is identified with paintings commissioned from leading contemporary Australian artists.

TASTING NOTES:

Intense varietal Cabernet Sauvignon aromas of striking blackcurrants and cherries combining with aromatics of fragrant violets, bay leaf, anise, clove dried tobacco, and pencil-like oak. A balanced palate exhibits plump dark forest fruits. Dried sage, coffee bean, slight char and anise rise to a finish which is characterized by structural cocoa powderlike tannins.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

92 pts Stephen Tanzer, 92 pts Wine & Spirits, 90+ pts Robert Parker

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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