



2009 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER : Paul Atwood
REGION : Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS : Chardonnay
MATURATION : 10 months in 30% new French oak barriques
ANALYSIS : 14.5% alc/vol | 6.8 g/L TA | 3.33 pH

VINTAGE NOTES :

Winter of 2008 was mild with most rain falling late in the season providing high soil moisture reserves through spring and early summer. The early spring was generally fine and mild with average bud burst dates. Wind at flowering reduced crops slightly, followed by a warm ripening season and even veraison across all varieties. The whites ripened in quick succession through late February and early March with great varietal flavors and natural balance. Altogether a very good Margaret River season.

WINEMAKING :

The Chardonnay fruit was cool crushed with some skin contact, then cold settled for 3-days prior to inoculation with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in French oak barriques with the lees stirred regularly. After 10 months in barrel, the components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES :

Aromas of white peach, poached pear, roasted cashews and brioche characters. The palate is medium to full bodied with wonderful intensity of flavor, following on from the aromas with ripe pear skin, custard tart and stone fruit. Great mid-palate creaminess giving way to a focused finish of crisp acidity yet lingering flavors of ginger, pear and savory nuttiness.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

94 pts James Halliday, 90 pts Wine Advocate, 89 pts Wine Spectator

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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