

2012 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay (Gin Gin clone)
MATURATION: 11 months in 100% new French oak
ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc | 6.62 g/L TA | 3.23 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

A typical mild winter and although rainfall was below average, dams still filled and overflowed. Chardonnay budburst commenced in late August and reached full bloom in early to mid-November with consistently fine, sunny and warm days. Summer temperatures were above average with very few hot days, the afternoon sea breeze always a welcome cooling influence. A spectacular flowering of the locally dominant forest tree Marri followed by an equally spectacular flowering of Karri resulted in an impressive absence of hungry local birds.

WINEMAKING:

Cool de-stemmed fruit with some skin contact. The juice was settled for three days, racked and inoculated with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in new French oak barriques and the lees stirred regularly. After 11 months in barrels the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES:

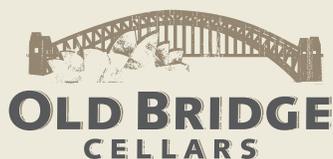
Concentrated, perfumed and youthful, the nose exhibits fresh pears and white nectarines with an underlying floral lift of lemon blossom. Subtle notes of pistachio, cinnamon quill, blanched almonds and rice wafer lie beneath. Powerful, yet very fine, the palate has tension with a thread of minerality. Limes, pear skin and lemon sorbet lead to a finely textured mid-palate, with layering and subtle oak integration. The purity and clarity of the fruit is the feature throughout.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

98 pts Australian Wine Companion, 94 pts - Top 100 Wines of 2015 #76 Wine Spectator, 94 pts Wine Enthusiast, 94 pts Vinous, 92+ pts The Wine Advocate

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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