



2012 LEEWIN ESTATE ART SERIES SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER : Paul Atwood
REGION : Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS : Shiraz
MATURATION : 20 months in French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS : 14.3% alc | 6.59 g/L TA | 3.50 pH

VINTAGE NOTES :

A terrific vintage beginning with a typical mild winter with strong northwest frontal systems sweeping through before turning southwest and southerly. Winter and spring had little hail and below average rainfall, though dams filled and overflowed. Flowering occurred in sunny, warm weather during early to mid November. Temperatures were above average with very few hot days, accompanied by cool afternoon sea breezes. The weather was consistently fine, warm and sunny with little rain.

VINIFICATION :

All the hand harvested fruit was fermented in open fermenters with 15% being whole bunches to extend the fermentation time. Open fermenters were plunged three times daily and then the wine was transferred to a combination of new, one and two year old barrels to undergo malolactic fermentation. After six months the various components were blended and aged in barrels for a further twelve months, followed by a gentle fining prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES :

Fragrant and lifted, the nose has density of fruit, balanced heightened floral notes, with complex spice and oak. Mulberries and blueberries feature with violets and rose petals. Asian five spice, caramel, vanilla bean and cocoa sit in the background. A finely woven palate that leads to opulent texture through the middle, finishing with generous length and carefully tuned tannins. Again, mulberries and blueberries are the key fruits, which are met with structural oak giving direction and carry. All elements are threaded with a bright and balanced line.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

95 pts Australian Wine Companion, 92 pts Vinous, 90+ pts The Wine Advocate

ABOUT LEEWIN 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.

