



2010 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER : Paul Atwood
REGION : Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS : Chardonnay
MATURATION : 10 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS : 13.9% alc/vol | 6.9 g/L TA | 3.25 pH

VINTAGE NOTES :

2009 was a wet winter with some wild stormy days. Flowering occurred in cloudy, cool weather and bunches of chardonnay showed significant shatter at berry set. In general, the summer was perfect with long sunny days and typical fresh afternoon sea breezes. Veraison began in early January and harvest took place in late February. An excellent vintage. The larger bunch weights worked to the wineries advantage due to the warm to hot ripening conditions. The wines showed a wonderful elegance with a searing intensity not normally associated with hot ripening years.

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 :

The nose has aromas of beurre bosc, fresh lime wedge and ripe fig. Layers of complexity appear with blanched hazelnuts, sweet cinnamon, and apricots. The palate is defined by a fruit spectrum of pear, lime curd and lemon zest. Its liveliness is highlighted with a pronounced, yet very fine acid structure, which tightens and directs the texture and fruit concentration. Subtle cinnamon and lemongrass provide further complexity

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 94 pts James Halliday, 90 pts Wine Spectator Insider

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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