



2005 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



97 pts “This Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, and, saints be praised, under screwcap, has awesome power, grace, depth and finesse, pure grapefruit, nectarine and peach-flesh aromas, framed by touches of toasty grilled nuts, leading into an exceptionally concentrated palate that nonetheless has a lightness that is beguiling and incredibly long.”

**James Halliday, The Weekend Australian
June 15, 2008**

97 pts “To my tastes this is as good as a young Art Series gets. It's a fantastically restrained, lengthy, elegant wine, its mass of flavor coiled so tight and intricate that it almost presents as delicate. It tastes of grapefruit, fresh-cut lemons, toast, saw dusty oak and green apples. It is very, very long. This vintage was very cool, and it has produced an exceptionally tight, reserved, sophisticated wine that should age for a good long time. A classic. Drink: 2012-2018.”

**Campbell Mattinson
Winefront Monthly**

96 pts “The 2005 Art Series Chardonnay was an incredible vintage, now giving a considerable array of complex, savory, pleasantly musky / meaty aromas with some marmite, pineapple tart, orange peel and ethereal flower and earth characters. The palate is at once elegance and power. Full bodied and rich with a satin mouth-feel, it has a very long and layered finish. Tantalizingly delicious now, it should continue to evolve and shine to 2018+.”

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate
October 2010**

96 pts “Almost the perfect chardonnay, this sublime wine is astonishingly intense and concentrated; also seamlessly balanced and measured. Its opulent expression of pineapple, grapefruit, guava and mango-like fruit knits effortlessly with creamy, bacony, vanilla and slightly smoky oak, while it's underpinned by a chalky mineral texture and punctuated by a chiselled, citrusy acidity. While there's a hint of spicity heat and sweetness at the finish of its exceptionally long and complete palate, it's a stunning exercise in power and control.”

**Jeremy Oliver, The Australian Wine Annual
2009**

95 pts – #1 of Harvey Steiman's Top Australian Whites for 2009 “Round, generous and amazingly fresh, with a juicy hint of grapefruit playing against spicy pear, green guava and mint aromas and flavors that expand and persist onto the long, expressive finish. This just doesn't quit, remaining exquisitely balanced. Drink now through 2017. 500 cases imported.”

**Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator Online
September 26, 2008**



95 pts “The 2005 Leeuwin makes a heady, opulent impression, some match strike, ripe open melon and peach fruits, deeply layered complexity and supportive oak below. The palate starts out creamy and rich, mouth-filling, really draws wide, before heading to a fine spine of acid structure, gentle citrus notes and some savoury punch through the finish. Will develop neatly, always does.”

**Nick Stock, The Penguin Good Australian Wine Guide
2009**

94 pts “Leeuwin’s Art Series Chardonnay is seemingly an annual candidate for Chardonnay of the Year. The light golf-colored 2006 Art Series Chardonnay spent 11 months in 100% new French oak. Currently the aromatics are slightly muted and the wine is tightly wound. It exhibits ample white and tropical fruit aromas, leading to an intensely concentrated, ripe, well-balanced Chardonnay that coats the mouth. The lengthy effort needs several years to blossom after which it will drink well for 10–15 years. I say this with confidence after a small vertical tasting going back to 1987 in which none of the wines showed the deleterious effects of age.”

**Jay Miller, eRobertParker.com
February 2009**

94 pts “This is predominantly Mendoza clone Chardonnay, which has low phenolics and allows for some skin contact. The newer Bernard clones tend to give more savoury spectrum rather than just fruit. Warm, concentrated, rich and broad with lovely soft, complex, nutty creamy fruit. The palate shows ripe, soft fruit with peach, nectarine and pear as well as fresh acidity. Delicious stuff with power and elegance.”

**The Wine Anorak, Landmark Australia Tasting, London
February 2009**

94 pts “Deep, bright gold. A complex bouquet offers ripe, smoky tangerine, candied ginger, honey, anise and nutmeg. Weighty orchard fruit flavors firm up with air, taking on candied lemon, lime and pear skin character. The spiciness builds and carries into an impressively broad, clinging finish. Leaves vibrant citrus and mineral notes behind, eventually. Recently tasted bottles of this wine going back to the 1987 showed no sign of decline, and in fact were almost shockingly youthful.”

**Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
Jul/Aug 2008**

93 pts - #34 Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2009 “This looks to be a top vintage for one of Australia’s most renowned Chardonnays. Like always, it’s big, bold and intense, with melon and pineapple fruit accented by toasted grain and slightly coconutty oak. Right now, it’s a little disjointed, showing a bit of unintegrated oak, but it should come together nicely in a year or two and last up to 10.”

**Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast
June 2009**

90 pts “For new world chardonnay classicists, this has rich, smoky notes from oak and equally rich fruit flavors of grilled pineapple. It’s creamy and buttery, a full-on style to serve with grilled lobster (or marron in Margaret River). The length of flavor that develops with air suggests good cellaring potential.”

**Wine & Spirits – ‘Australia’s Best’
February 2009**

GOLD MEDAL

2009 Sommelier Challenge



“Why it made the list: what, it being the best Chard I’ve ever had from the S. hemisphere isn’t good enough for you? About a Franklin and worth every Lincoln therein. Crème brulee meets ginger for starters. Then there’s this elusive quality... I mean, you get these red & yellow apples but there’s something so clean and pure about them. Peaches follow, along with a sense of the poised power that really defined the entire Leeuwin Chardonnay lineup for me; these wines flirt with heat but never get hot, because they end (as in this case) refreshingly with limes and lemons and pith and zest. You could circumnavigate Western Australia from Perth to the Darwin before the finish on this wine finally peeters out. In other words, it’s just about seamless; and if you’re inclined, as I am, to think about winemaking in terms of art, then you won’t mind me mentioning that this wine is one of those efforts that actually gives its commissioned label a run for the money.”

Joe Roberts, 1winedude.com
December 20, 2012

“The 2005 Art Series Chardonnay will go down in Western Australian wine history along with the 1982, 1986 and 1987, 1995, 2001 and 2002 as being the greatest wines ever from this winery and as being amongst the 10 or 12 greatest Australian white wines ever...we have no hesitation in restating emphatically that Leeuwin Estate is consistently the finest producer of Australia’s greatest white wine variety. End of story.”

John Jens, Western Suburbs Weekly
December 2, 2008

“Perhaps the golden goose of this line up; this drop never lets its fans down. Hoovering up the aroma one can clearly distinguish the quality oak – not overbearing with discrete vanillin characters. On the palate, a fruit bowl – bursting peaches, figs and dried pears, unified with generous nutty French oak. This huge palate extends right to the finish finely balanced with a fresh citrus vitality of ‘Ben Hur’ like length.”

Jason Boudville, Spice Magazine
September 2008

“An iconic white to rival the best Burgundies. Beautiful vanilla oak nose; rich, soft peaches and butter on the elegant palate; balanced with long aftertaste.”

Wayne de Nicolo, SW Magazine
August 2008

“Art Series Chardonnay seemingly has a lifetime pass to this section of the 100 best. Every year we taste the new vintage and every year it soars straight into the definite pile of wines. It is an icon, yet one that every wine lover in the world can identify with – the mark of a truly sensational wine.”

Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2008
May 2008

“The top pick has to be Leeuwin Estate Art Series chardonnay 2005. After a few extra months in bottle this has settled down beautifully and time may well prove it to be the greatest Leeuwin yet... Typically powerful with intense aromas of grapefruit and fresh meal with a touch of pear and melon. A stunning wine. And it’s sealed under screw-cap.”

Ray Jordan, The West Australian
February 28, 2008



"I'm often asked how the latest Leeuwin stacks up against previous greats. Well, let's put it this way; I have always rated the '95 as the greatest, just a smidge ahead of the '87 with maybe the '01 a close-run third. But after tasting the '05, I have to say that time may well prove it to be the greatest Leeuwin Chardonnay yet. Here is elegance, power, finesse and complexity rolled into a wine with all the texture, palate feel, flavor and presence of the greatest chardonnays in the world. There are many Aussie and French chardonnays selling for a lot more, so this is a steal. If you have even a passing interest in Chardonnay, this is a must buy."

Ray Jordan, The West Australian
February 16, 2008

"From the early 1980's, this wine has been the most consistently excellent Chardonnay produced in Australia. After tasting an early sample of the 2005 Art Series, I went home to drink a 1er Cru Meursault from a top producer - and Art Series outshone its French counterpart. It's smart, gently toasted oak barrels and full-bodied, apple scented fruit leave you in an awe-inspired trance. The beauty of this wine comes from the Margaret River region, in Western Australia, where it's grown. The wind off the Indian Ocean cools the vines at night which allows the grapes to ripen at even pace. As with first class Meursault, expect this wine to evolve over time - the oak will soften and the fruit will come to the fore."

Amelia Pinsent, Country Life Magazine (UK)
February 2008

"On the world stage, WA's most expensive white is excellent value. This is the best in a decade - cool, tangy white peach, fine, succulent, with the weight, power and natural acidity to age. Delicious."

Peter Forrestal, The Sunday Times
February 2008

"Is this the best Chardonnay in Australia? Too right it is. Brilliantly complex, unreservedly restrained and yet a full-on clog dancer from its very first moment on your palate. The trajectory of this wine is astronomical. You'll still be tasting it tomorrow. Did we say this is the best Chard in Aus? Long live the Queen."

Matthew Jukes & Tyson Stelzer
Taste Food & Wine 2008, The Best Wines of Australia