



## 2009 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

### Review Summary



**94 pts** “Bright, light straw-green; the bouquet is quite complex, the palate wonderfully elegant and smooth, yet not forfeiting the complexity of the bouquet, with creamy cashew notes as well as the white stone fruit base.”

**James Halliday, Australian Wine companion  
2012**

**93 pts** “Full-bodied and rich with loads of impact, it has lovely complex hazelnut, lemon and herbal aromas, with a deep powerful palate.”

**Huon Hooke, Gourmet Traveller Wine  
August/September 2011**

**91 pts** “We believe that Leeuwin is the No. 1 Chardonnay producer in Australia, and the 2009 “Prelude Vineyards” bottling does nothing to dissuade. The rich nose evokes spiced pear, lime, wet stones and nuts. In the mouth, the wine picks up more tropical fruit notes, leading to a lingering, nutty finish. With age, expect this already engaging wine to become even more complex.”

**WineLinesOnline.com  
November 2011**

**90 pts** “Impressive chardonnay that sits below the Art Series. This is no slouch with rich intensely flavored fruit balanced with neatly weight oak. Creamy grapefruit and slightly nutty aromas and tight fine flavors on the palate. The acid brings this to life, while the stone fruit and nutty fruit intensity is clearly evident.”

**Ray Jordan  
The West Australian Wine Guide 2012**

**90 pts** “From estate vineyards, the 2009 Prelude Vineyards Chardonnay was barrel fermented in French barriques and aged for 9 months on lees. The nose is ripe and intense, revealing notes of pink guava, melon and pineapple over cedar, preserved ginger and a whiff of mandarin peel. Full bodied, the concentrated layers of tropical flavors are nicely offset by refreshing acidity, and it has a pleasantly creamy texture. It finishes long and toasty. Drink it now through 2015.”

**Lisa Perrotti-Brown, eRobertParker.com  
August 2011**



**89 pts** “Light yellow. Spicy, lees-accented aromas of pear and nectarine, with a hint of honey that gains strength with air. Plush and round, but with a touch of heat to the supple orchard fruit flavors. The spicy quality repeats on the smooth, broad finish.”

**Josh Reynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar**  
**July/August 2011**

**89 pts** “This jazzy white is lively with lemon and cream flavors, lingering gently. Drink now through 2013. Tasted twice, with consistent notes.”

**Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator**  
**July 31, 2011**

**88 pts** “Broad on the palate and seemingly even a bit warm in alcohol, this lacks the spine and concentration of the Art Series bottling yet still remains a bold, authoritative example of Margaret River Chardonnay. Apple, pear and melon notes all swirl together before finishing in a whirl of smoke.”

**Joe Czerwinski, Wine Enthusiast**  
**June 2013**

**88 pts/Good** “This light yellow colored Chardonnay from down under opens with a green apple bouquet with hints of oak and coconut. On the palate, this wine is medium bodied, crisp and lively. The flavor profile is a ripe lemon with hints of oak, tangerine, and some infused minerality. The finish is dry and refreshing. This Chard would pair well with chicken cordon bleu.”

**Ken Hoggins, KenseWineGuide.com**  
**September 13, 2012**

**100 Best Australian Wines** “Leeuwin’s Prelude has always given us a glimpse of what this estate’s flagship wine, Art Series, is all about. But as 2008 Art Series is still in a state of stock, probably needing a few more years to gather its skirts (and it got a mention last year anyway), Prelude once again takes center stage with this succulent, noble vintage. It’s interesting to ask tasters which Chardonnay they favor in a lineup of Australian classics. In my experience, if Leeuwin is in the reckoning, it will always grab the lion’s share of the votes. The Horgans can be extremely proud of their achievements at this phenomenal estate.”

**Matthew Jukes, 100 Best Australian Wines 2012**  
**May 11, 2012**

“Leeuwin, the pioneer of Margaret River near Australia’s western edge, would want to be known foremost for its Art Series Chardonnay, and the forthcoming 2009 (\$89, 14.5%) certainly was a strong contender in our lineup. But the price makes me wonder if Leeuwin is feeling a bit too comfortable in its legacy. Besides, there was plenty of favor for this muscular entry, again with a Muscat note amid juicy orange, clover and vanilla. A vibrancy ties together its oak-tinged flavors.”

**Jon Bonné, San Francisco Chronicle**  
**April 22, 2012**