



2007 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CABERNET MERLOT

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (84%), Merlot (16%)
MATURATION: 22 months in new and older French oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 13.6% alc/vol | TA: 7.1 g/L TA | pH: 3.38

VINTAGE NOTES:

Winter 2006 was mild with lower than average rainfall, resulting in early bud burst, while a warm and sunny spring produced excellent conditions for flowering and fruit set. The beginning of summer was warm, with a welcome 29mm of rain in the first week in January, which set up the un-irrigated vineyard for veraison and ripening. Red varieties were harvested several weeks earlier than usual while the weather remained mild to warm to allow for slow flavor development and retention.

WINEMAKING:

Fermentation took place in closed fermenters at temperatures up to 30°C, with extraction by pumping over each individual lot. After malolactic fermentation in barrels and 10 months of aging in French oak barriques, the different components were blended and aged for an additional 12 months.

TASTING NOTES:

The 2007 Prelude Vineyards Cabernet Merlot displays a deep garnet color. Lifted aromas of plum, raspberry, cassis and chocolate are complemented by subtle hints of French oak. The palate adds delicate flavors of mulberry and vanilla. This approachable, medium bodied wine exhibits lovely balance in the mouth with a long, fine finish.

CRITICAL ACCLIAM:

93pts James Haliday, 90 pts Wine Enthusiast, 89 pts International Wine Cellar

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 in Margaret River. 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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