



2008 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CABERNET MERLOT

WINEMAKER : Paul Atwood
REGION : Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS : Cabernet Sauvignon (72%), Merlot (28%)
MATURATION : 18 months in French oak barrels (35% new)
ANALYSIS : 13.5% alc/vol | TA: 7.0 g/L TA | pH: 3.43

VINTAGE NOTES :

Excellent winter and early spring rains recharged the soil profile for the dry summer season ahead. Late spring was generally mild and sunny, although a short blast of wild wind, rain and hail in October damaged some of the young shoots. Flowering dates for all varieties were about average, conditions were generally fine and mild. Summer was fine, warm and sunny with few hot days. Warm, clear days with cooling afternoon sea breezes continued into March, great conditions for finishing Cabernet and Merlot.

WINEMAKING :

Fermentation took place in closed and open fermenters at hot temperatures with extraction by pumping over each individual lot three times daily. After malolactic fermentation entirely in barrels and nine months of barrel ageing, the different components are blended for ageing in French barriques for a further nine months.

TASTING NOTES :

Aromatic and complex, the nose has blueberries, raspberries and hints of rhubarb. Beneath, rose petals, coffee bean and anise marry with cedar, bay leaf and fresh tobacco. The palate is defined by woven layers of plump ripe red fruits, silky fine tannins and a balanced acid structure. Plums, cherries and currants combine with black olives, hints of leather and toasted cedar, which carry through to form a seamless finish.

CRITICAL ACCLIAM : 90 pts Stephen Tanzer's 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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