



2011 LEEWIN ESTATE ART SERIES SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz
MATURATION: 18 months in French oak barriques (35% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.9% alc | 6.84 g/L TA | 3.39 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

Rainfall came early and dams filled to capacity by early winter. Flowering of all varieties occurred in fine and sunny spring weather and excellent crops were set. Warm weather continued through to December with few rainy days. In January 1.6 inches of rain allowed the unirrigated vineyards to get a much needed deep drink allowing stress free veraison and ripening. In general, the summer was perfectly warm and sunny tempered with cool afternoon sea breezes. The white harvest began with Riesling and Chardonnay in late February. Red varieties hung for several weeks at the conclusion of the white harvest. In late March temperatures cooled off allowing the development great varietal intensity. An excellent vintage, but a relatively fast paced one particularly for the whites.

VINIFICATION:

All the hand harvested fruit was fermented in open fermenters with 15% being whole bunches to extend the fermentation time. Open fermenters were plunged three times daily and then the wine was transferred to a combination of new, one and two year old barrels to undergo malolactic fermentation. After six months the various components were blended and aged in barrels for a further twelve months, followed by a gentle fining prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

A compote of blueberries, Satsuma plums and mulberries, laced with lifted violets, ground pepper, mocha, anise and Asian five spice. A textured palate showing great depth and intensity, it is laden with plums, dark cherries and mulberries. Subtle nuances of cocoa, cinnamon and vanilla pod are threaded throughout the palate. The palate has immense length and persistence, with definition highlighted by a silky and long tannin structure.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Australian Wine Companion, 91 pts International Wine Cellar, 90+ pts The Wine Advocate, 90 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT LEEWIN 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.

