



2011 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 10 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc/vol | 6.77 g/L TA | 3.30 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

2010 was a cool and wet winter. At flowering the weather was fine and sunny, excellent crops were set, disease pressure was low. Spring and early summer were warm with few rainy days. Veraison began in very late December and harvest took place in March. Whites were handpicked in the early morning or by machine at night, in both cases to ensure the protection of the delicate varietal flavors that had developed. An excellent vintage. This was a very fast vintage whites ripened early and were all off inside 2 weeks.

WINEMAKING:

The Chardonnay fruit was cool crushed with some skin contact, then cold settled for 3-days prior to inoculation with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in French oak barriques with the lees stirred regularly. After 10 months in barrel, the components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES:

A complex and layered palate that features a delicate lemon, pear and lime fruit spectrum at the forefront. Tight and focused, woven together by a pristine natural acid line. Mealy notes, gunflint and subtleties of nougat, fragrant jasmine and sweet spice provide breadth to an elegant nose. Delicately textured with vibrant grapefruit and freshly cut lime, width and complexity enhanced by fluffy nougat notes. A classical wine from an outstanding vintage.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

91 pts Wine Enthusiast, **91 pts** Wine Spectator, **90 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. 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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