



2012 LEEUWIN ESTATE PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 9 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | 6.51 g/L TA | 3.26 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

A mild Margaret River winter with strong northwest frontal systems. While rainfall was below average dams filled and overflowed. Chardonnay budburst commenced in late August and reached full bloom in early to mid November with consistently fine sunny and warm days. Summer and harvest temperatures were above average with very few hot days, the afternoon sea breeze providing a welcome cooling influence.

WINEMAKING:

Cool crushed fruit with some skin contact. The juice was settled for three days, racked and inoculated with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in French Barriques and the lees stirred regularly. After nine months in barrels the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES:

Cut limes, ripe nashi pears and white peaches greet the nose, amidst aromas of fresh nougat, honeycomb, brioche and rice wafers. Savory lemon rind, figs and quince create complexity, while oak derived toasted hazelnuts and cinnamon spice is diligently incorporated to enhance the balance. The palate is tight and defined, characterized by fresh lime, white nectarine and pears. Luscious texture delivers balanced depth and breadth to the palate. Oatmeal, nutmeg and subtle oak char lie in the background, with all components brought together with a taut and refreshing acid line.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 94 pts Australian Wine Companion, 92 pts - Editors' Choice Wine Enthusiast, 91 pts Wine Spectator, 91 pts Steven 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. 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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