



2008 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



98 pts “Although tasted a good 8 months before release this appears to be one of the most delicate and restrained of all Leeuwin Art Series Chardies. Yet, in keeping with this famous block, there is depth and power of extraordinary intensity. The palate is woven into a tight lean thread moving with relentless precision to a very long finish. There's some minerally tightness and a bracing acidity that holds it all together. Destined for greatness.”

Ray Jordan
WA Wine Guide
2011

96 pts – Best of the Best by Variety “Still pale quartz-green; the finesse of Art Series Chardonnay when it is young is every bit as enjoyable as is the complexity it gains after six or seven years in bottle (under screwcap), its future still assured. We know that bottles from the mid-1980s under cork can blow the brains out, although most are now a shadow of their former selves.”

James Halliday
Australian Wine Companion
2012

96 pts “A significantly finer, leaner and more focused Art Series Chardonnay that retains much of its primary, youthful character. A slightly reserved bouquet of grapefruit, lime juice, ginger and cinnamon backed by suggestions of minerals, grilled nuts and waxiness steadily reveals more intensity and perfume. Surprisingly smooth and supple, it's exceptionally long and fine, revealing a remarkable core of concentrated crunchy, freshly sliced fruit that slowly moves down the palate, finishing with brightness, brittleness, zesty acids, true emphasis and first-rate persistence.”

Jeremy Oliver
The Australian Wine Annual
2012



95 pts “100% of the 2008 Art Series Chardonnay juice was barrel fermented in new French barriques with the lees stirred every two to three weeks over the 11 months. The nose is typically ripe and expressive, displaying pronounced notes of guava, ripe apricot and cantaloupe over toasted cashews, brioche, cedar and manuka honey. The palate is as rich and concentrated as it ever is, yet it’s not quite as weighty as it has been in some recent vintages and is showing more elegance this year. Medium-full bodied, it has a lovely creaminess to the texture, refreshingly crisp acid and a very long finish.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown
eRobertParker.com
August 2011

94 pts

Nick Stock
Good Wine Guide 2012

93+ pts “Light, bright yellow. Fresh citrus and orchard fruit aromas are complicated by white flowers, iodine, toasty lees and butter. Smoky, penetrating orange and pear flavors are complemented by deeper suggestions of honey and sweet butter, with a firm mineral element adding spine. Finishes with very good breadth and length, the smoke and iodine notes repeating. This wine has a great track record for aging, as a recent bottle of 2001 showed; it was spicy, intensely floral and deep in orchard fruit flavors, with only a hint of the nuttiness that I expect in decade-old chardonnay. It has years of life ahead of it.”

Josh Raynolds
Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
July/August 2011

93 pts “The 2008 Chardonnay Art Series shows signs of maturing fruit and a nice meatiness, with marmite and earth hints over core of apple tart and beeswax, as well as honeyed toast. Medium-bodied and elegant in the mature mouth, it appears to have ‘peaked’ but should still hold-up over the next few years.”

Lisa Perrotti-Brown
Robert Parker’s The Wine Advocate
March 2016

93 pts “A perennial favorite, Leeuwin’s 2008 is another success, marrying ample weight and texture with easy elegance. Notes of toasted hazelnuts and grilled tropical fruit mingle into an opulent parfait of flavor that’s held together by bright acidity, while a lingering veil of smoke hangs on the finish.”

Joe Czerwinski
Wine Enthusiast
June 2013



93 pts “Silky, round and deftly balanced to play its pear, apricot, grapefruit and nutmeg flavors against a refined structure, casting it all into the long, enticing finish, which sails on impressively. Remarkable for its deftness, not its obvious power.”

Harvey Steiman
Wine Spectator
July 30, 2011

91 pts

James Suckling
JamesSuckling.com
June 20, 2012

91 pts “Fragrant apple, pear and fresh wheat scents infuse the creaminess of this Chardonnay. There’s lovely fruit presence in the middle of the wine, completely integrating the oak so that it’s the fruit that lasts in the end. Tightly build for age, Leeuwin’s Art Series can evolve for a decade or more in the cellar.”

Joshua Greene
Wine & Spirits
October 2011

EXCEPTIONAL “May be Australia’s top Chardonnay with oak notes to pair with Chablis-like structure. Distinctively subtle: rich entry, but tart finish based on acid of 7.6 and pH of a low 3.08!”

Dan Berger
Vintage Experiences
March 22, 2012

“Pale straw in color, with glints of emerald. Lovely aromas of grilled Meyer lemon, hazelnut, vanilla, smoke and pear lead to additional fleshier fruit flavors and creaminess in the mouth. Remarkably balanced, with a finish that seems to build with every sip, this vintage ranks among the best from this winery – generally acknowledged as the premier Chardonnay producer in Australia.”

Glen Fredericksen
WineLinesOnline.com
March 23, 2013

“Each vintage of this Western Australian treasure draws consistently high scores and respect in fine wine circles... Subtle oak and creaminess embrace the soft fruit flavors in a refreshing, New World style. This is a polished Chardonnay that will add luster to the holidays.”

John Rankin
Shorelife.com
November 2012



“It was a different animal entirely – explosive on the nose, a touch of heat on the palate, the balance in both cases just wasn’t quite there but I wouldn’t have complained if either one showed up in my cellar to lay down for a few more years.”

Joe Roberts
1WineDude.com
July 12, 2012

“Every year when Leeuwin Art Chard is released, most of the journo's around the traps dust off every superlative in their magic box and play them one after the other in describing the latest and greatest example of a wine that does it better than anyone else. I reckon only Giaconda could consistently hold a candle to Leeuwin in terms of quality. Indeed of the best Australian Chardonnay's I have been fortunate enough to try, Giaconda would have two but Leeuwin would have three. The '87, the '95 and the '02. Well, I am reaching into my box now because you can add a fourth, the 2008 to that list. Most impressions in retailer-ville are based on a quick look at wines which is not always ideal. Obviously anything that takes a fancy is looked at over the course of a day, sometimes two and in some instances we look at more than one bottle. On the consumption side, I would be lucky to 'drink' one in 20 wines and even then we are talking the equivalent to a couple of 'shots' (60ml). That said, I drank (as opposed to tasted) copious amounts of Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay 2008 in Margaret River recently. Sure, I feel like a greedy guts but this is as close to a White Burgundy I reckon I have seen from Leeuwin. The nose shows lovely white fleshy fruit with hints of roasted nuts. It is remarkably intense in the mouth with lashings of pure fruit balanced by bracing acidity and a line of minerality that Leeuwin has showed more and more of this decade. The 2008 nails it, it is technically perfect and as it broadens and fills out, my rating is likely to be just that.”

Wine Star
2011

“The release of the Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay each year is one of the three most important annual wine dates for the national and international promotion of the WA wine industry. How good is the soon-to-be released 2008 Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay? This is another great Leeuwin chardonnay of length, sophistication and poise. The fruit is superb and it has been brilliantly handled. To place it in perspective, at the moment the 2008 wine is just behind the six superstar Leeuwin chardonnays (the wines from '82, '87, '95, '01, '02 and '05) and as such it is clearly among the greatest 16 to 20 Australian chardonnays ever. Do you buy this for cellaring? The answer is a resounding yes.”

John Jens
InMyCommunity.com
February, 2011