



2013 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (93%), Malbec (5%), Viognier (2%)
MATURATION: 18 months in French oak barriques (53% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc | 6.47 g/L TA | 3.45 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

Winter was characterized by south westerly fronts sweeping showery rain into Margaret River from the Indian Ocean. In early spring the usual showery days were followed by long fine breaks, good conditions for vine growth. Summer was warmer than average, and the weather cooled in late March allowing more hang time for the red varieties. This produced grapes with a balance of flavor and tannin ripeness. Harvest of the reds occurred over three weeks, individual parcels of fruit taken to winery when perfect.

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:

An amazing display of blue berries, blackberries, anise, dark chocolate and a subtle gaminess. This concentrated and inky bouquet also has highlights of violets and sweet caramel. The palate shows the same intensity as the nose with a layered concentration of flavors on the entry with depth and persistent nuances of dense blackberry underpinned by light roasted coffee beans and dark forest fruits. Elegant French oak and peppery fine tannins elongate the length of this wine delivering a long and lingering finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, 92 pts Wine Spectator, 91+ pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate

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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