



2016 PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER:	Tim Lovett
REGION:	Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS:	Chardonnay
MATURATION:	10 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS:	13.5% alc/vol 7.52 g/L TA 3.15 pH

VINTAGE NOTES:

Winter and spring rainfall was well below average. Spring was generally fine with good conditions for flowering through November. January and February temperatures were slightly above average, with only several non-concurrent hot days. A welcome, significant 90 mm of rain fell in January, setting up unirrigated vineyards for the remainder of the season. March and April temperatures were close to average; reflected in the slowing down of ripening over mid/late vintage. One of the best all round vintages seen.

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 ten months in barrel the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES:

Heightened with notes of jasmine, frangipani and lemon blossom. Nuances of nougat, cashew and toasted almonds combine with brioche, brulee and mealy notes lying beneath. The palate is bright, well weighted with volume and presence, whilst maintaining focus and definition. Pink grapefruit, white nectarine and baked apple feature with diligent oak and subtle texture. The layered and contoured mid palate is finely checked with mineral acid thread.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

94 pts Wine & Spirits, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast

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.

