

2016 LEEUWIN ESTATE

ART SERIES CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 11 months in 100% new French oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 13.9% alc/vol | 7.80 g/L TA | 3.17 pH

VINTAGE: Winter and spring rainfall throughout 2015 was modest, and there were good conditions for flowering through November. Early summer was generally warm and fine, with a daily sea breeze. Welcome rain fell in January, setting up unirrigated vineyards for the remainder of the season. 2016 was one of the best all round vintages seen, with the resulting wines showing very good palate density and intense varietal lifts.

WINEMAKING: Cool de-stemmed fruit with some skin contact. The juice was settled for three days, racked with some barrels inoculated with yeast, others left to ferment naturally. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in new French oak barriques and the lees stirred regularly. After 11 months in barrels the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: The nose is energetic, precise and finite with remarkable clarity and purity. Lime, lemon pith, grapefruit and Nashi pear are the hallmark fruits present. Delicate notes of jasmine, cardamom pod, flint, wet stone, blanched almonds and rice wafer give subtle complexity in the background. The shape and frame of the palate is the highlight; volume, combined with length and a mineral acid line threaded in between. Grapefruit, pear and lemon are set in the foreground amongst nougat, brioche, cinnamon and graphite. Wine with incredible poise and presence, with a long life ahead.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Wine Spectator, 94 pts JamesSuckling.com

ABOUT LEEUWIN: 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.

