

2016 LEEUWIN ESTATE

ART SERIES SHIRAZ



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (93%), Malbec (5%), Viognier (1%)
MATURATION: 18 months in French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc/vol. | 7.22 g/L TA | 3.33 pH

VINTAGE: 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: Fruit was fermented in both open and closed fermenters with 20% being whole bunches to enhance vibrancy and lift. Ferment vessels were plunged and pumped over daily and the wine run to new, one and two-year-old barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine underwent malolactic in barrels and after six months, the various components were blended and matured in barrels for a further twelve months. After assemblage the wine was fined and readied for bottling.

TASTING NOTES: An abundance of bursting blackcurrants, boysenberries and mulberries glide between sweet and toasted spices of black cardamom, cinnamon quill and nutmeg. Offset are perfumed notes of violets, anise, dark chocolate, camphor and Sichuan peppercorns. The palate is finely poised, yet with a generous mid palate weight. Vibrant and opulent black and blue fruits mesh with dried cranberries, caramel and cocoa notes. The tannins are tactile and structural providing direction and length.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 93 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.

