

# 2017 LEEUWIN ESTATE

## PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY



**WINEMAKER:** Tim Lovett  
**REGION:** Margaret River, Western Australia  
**VARIETALS:** Chardonnay  
**MATURATION:** 9 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)  
**ANALYSIS:** 13.5% alc/vol | 7.69 g/L TA | 3.16 pH

**VINTAGE:** A wetter than average winter was followed by a relatively cool and wet spring. Flowering was 10 days later than in 2016, and generally sunny conditions resulted in excellent set across all varieties. Summer was mild with few hot days. Harvest commenced in the last week of February. A later than usual, but nonetheless excellent vintage.

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

**TASTING NOTES:** Lifted and fragrant with an abundance of white nectarines, lime curd, Nashi pears and baby peaches. Heightened with notes of jasmine, lemon blossom and chamomile tea leaves. Nuances of cashews, blanched almonds and rice wafers combine with brioche and mealy notes lying beneath. The palate is bright with great concentration, purity and clarity, whilst maintaining focus and definition. An introduction of grapefruit, lemon wedges and pear lead to a delicately textured, layered and woven palate with a creamy, baked apple and brioche feature with diligent oak and subtle texture. The layered and contoured mid palate is finely checked with mineral acid thread.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 92 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.

