



2006 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER: Paul Atwood

REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia

VARIETALS: Shiraz

MATURATION: 22 months in French oak barriques

ALCOHOL: 13.5% alc/vol.

VINTAGE NOTES:

A mild winter and gentle spring winds allowed for good flowering and berry set. The summer was generally dry, warm and clear with few hot days. The cool nights and warm days over the harvest period enabled the development of fabulous fruit varietal characters. Picking of this variety was done at night and at dawn to preserve these delicate flavors.

VINIFICATION:

100% of the fruit was fermented in open fermenters with 20% being whole bunches to extend the fermentation and provide another layer of complexity. The open fermenters were plunged three times daily and the wine run to new, one and two year old barrels for malolactic fermentation. The wine was matured separately in the individual vineyard parcels and after ten months the various components were blended and aged in barrels for a further 12 months. The wine was then assembled, fined and readied for bottling.

TASTING NOTES:

Ruby red with brilliant purple edges, the nose displays lively fresh berries, spicy cloves, and intense pepper notes with complexing earthy hints. The palate is medium bodied and fleshy with flavors of raspberry jellies and plum with subtle smoky notes and fruit spice. Fine tannins and quality oak provide a frame for the penetrating fruit flavors that run the length of palate and linger persistently.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 94 pts Wine & Spirits, 92 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 90 pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, 89 pts Wine Spectator, 89 pts Wine Enthusiast

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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