

# 2017 LEEUWIN ESTATE

## ART SERIES SHIRAZ



**WINEMAKER:** Tim Lovett  
**REGION:** Margaret River, Western Australia  
**VARIETALS:** Shiraz (97%), Malbec (3%)  
**MATURATION:** 18 months in French oak barriques (30% new)  
**ANALYSIS:** 13.5% alc/vol. | 6.69 g/L TA | 3.40 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. The reds were able to hang well into a rain free April. The slow Autumn ripening allowed Shiraz and Cabernet to develop intense and vibrant fruit flavors with excellent tannin ripeness. A late, but nonetheless excellent vintage.

**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:** A concentrated nose featuring red currants, black cherries and dark chocolate. Higher notes of rose, violets, cinnamon and anise are positioned subtly in the background. The palate has vibrancy and vitality that is balanced by depth, intensity and volume. Red and blue fruits alternate through sweet oak, ripe chalky tannins and an energetic acid structure.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** 92 pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate, 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.

