

2018 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: 13.5% alc/vol | 7.53 g/L TA | 3.23 pH

VINTAGE: After a typically wet winter, flowering in all varieties was approximately ten days earlier than in vintage 2017. Spring was met by generally mild conditions, with the usual showery and sunny periods resulting in excellent set across most varieties. Summer was warm with very few hot days, and veraison occurred two weeks earlier than in 2017. 2018 was a spectacular year for flowering of the local Marri trees, which kept birds distracted from the ripening vineyards.

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: A powerful nose with purity and clarity of primary fruit with pear, white peach, lime curd and custard apple. Layers of brioche, grilled hazelnuts, cinnamon, shaved nutmeg, black cardamom and almond meal. A thread of graphite in the background adds elegant complexity. Penetration and drive with incredible shape and frame on the palate. Pear, cut lime and nectarine are definite throughout. Sweet spice and elegant oak use sit neatly with the fruit, underlined by a delicate acid line, leading to a palate with effortless length.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: Not yet reviewed. 2017 vintage: 99 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 96 pts/Highly Recommended Wine Spectator, 96 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.

