

2017 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 | 7.62 g/L TA | 3.12 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 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: The purity on the nose is unmistakable; defined by a fruit spectrum of Japanese pear, Tahitian lime and Meyer lemon. Floral aromas combine with subtle spice, highlighted by frangipani, chamomile, cinnamon and cardamom. Delicate notes of cashew, almonds, sesame and graphite are threaded in the background. A clear expression of primary fruit unfolds into a delicate, contoured and layered mid-palate, neatly laced with a fine acid structure. Presence, poise and enviable length combine in symmetry, creating an articulating line and dimension.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 99 pts/Best Chardonnay Halliday Wine Companion, 96 pts/Highly Recommended Wine Spectator, 96 pts Vinous, 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.

