

2018 LEEUWIN ESTATE

ART SERIES SHIRAZ



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (93%), Malbec (6%), Viognier (1%)
MATURATION: 18 months in French oak barriques (30% new)
ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc/vol. | 7.17 g/L TA | 3.32 pH

VINTAGE: Chardonnay was the first variety to experience bud burst in late August, followed by the Riesling and Cabernet through September. Conditions in spring were generally mild, with the usual showery and sunny periods resulting in excellent set across most varieties. Temperatures throughout summer were warm, with very few hot days. Harvest commenced in the last week of February. 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: Dense, dark and intense nose, rich with blueberries, mulberries and plums. Further complexing notes of black pepper, mushroom and gameiness increase the bandwidth on the nose. Capacity, dimension, and texture outline the palate. A matrix of blueberries and redcurrants feature through a background of dark chocolate, cracked coffee bean and tobacco. A wine filled with an obvious energy.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 91 pts Wine & Spirits, 90 pts Wine Enthusiast

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.

