

2018 LEEUWIN ESTATE

PRELUDE VINEYARDS CABERNET SAUVIGNON



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon (90%), Merlot (10%)
MATURATION: 20 months in French oak barriques (33% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | 7.09 g/L TA | 3.35 pH

VINTAGE: Temperatures throughout summer were warm, with very few hot days. Veraison occurred two weeks earlier than in 2017. Shiraz and Cabernet harvest commenced in the last week of March and into the third week of April. After early leaf removing across the fruit zone to let in the sunshine, and thinning of fruit where necessary, 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.

WINEMAKING: After berry sorting and cold soaking, fermentation took place in closed and open fermenters and each individual lot was pumped over three times daily. Malolactic fermentation was completed in French Bordelaise coopered barriques. After nine months the separate parcels were blended and returned to oak for further maturation. Racking took place seasonally and the wine spent a total of 20 months in oak.

TASTING NOTES: Dark concentrated blackcurrants, blueberries and cherries are lifted by lavender and violets. A fine and elegant entry leads to a combination of redcurrants, blueberries and dark cherries. The palate has energy and drive with salivating acid being the foundation. Cedar and cassia notes surround the deep core of fruit, finishing with dusty, graphite-like tannins.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 96 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 93 pts Vinous, 90 pts Wine Spectator

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.

