

2021 LEEUWIN ESTATE

PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 10 months in 100% French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | 7.41 g/L TA | 3.17 pH

VINTAGE: 2021 provided a milder Margaret River vintage, but produced fruit with fantastic intensity. 2020's winter was typically wet and windy with heavy falls in July, August and September resulting in close to average rainfall. Summer was generally warm with few hot days experienced. Veraison was first noted in the estate Pinot Noir vineyards in the final days of December and Chardonnay veraison commenced in the first week of January. Weather in the first weeks of February was mild and 3 inches of rain fell, providing welcome relief for the unirrigated vineyards.

WINEMAKING: Cool crushed fruit with some skin contact. The juice was settled for three days, racked and inoculated with yeast. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented in French barriques and the lees stirred regularly. After ten months in barrel the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: Bright, aromatic and varietal cut lime, pear and nectarine. Jasmine and frangipani notes give heightened subtleties to the fruit spectrum. Cashew, almond meal, popcorn, chamomile create a gorgeous centre to the nose. Vibrant and ethereal palate - great direction with shape and frame. Energetic and lively citrus fruits meets saline acidity. Gentle nuances of hazelnut, and sweet spice add a complementary layer and contour to the palate.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 97 pts Halliday Wine Companion, 93+ pts Robert Parker Wine Advocate, 92 pts Wine Enthusiast, 92 pts Decanter, 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.

