

2022 LEEUWIN ESTATE

PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 10 months in French oak barriques (40% new)
ANALYSIS: 13.5% alc/vol | 7.13 g/L TA | 3.11 pH

VINTAGE: 2022 provided a fantastic vintage at Leeuwin Estate. Spring of 2021 was typically wet and windy. September and October's temperatures were milder than usual, delaying shoot growth and flowering dates. Sunny conditions in early-mid November produced a surge in vine growth and a rapid period of vine flowering. Conditions were warm throughout January and February, with the welcome arrival of the sea breeze a daily constant. There was a substantial showing of Marri blossom around the vineyard and on the capes, so local birds showed little interest in the ripening grapes.

WINEMAKING: Cool crushed fruit with some skin contact, inclusive of Gin Gin, Davis and Bernard clones. The juice was settled, racked, and underwent fermentation both with inoculated yeast and naturally. 100% of the juice was barrel fermented with lees stirred regularly. After 10 months in barrels, individual parcels were blended, lightly fined, stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: An aromatic and perfumed nose, where Nashi pear, white nectarine, lemon zest and grapefruit provide the foundation of the fruit spectrum with graphite and brioche subtleties to provide delicate complexity. The palate is energetic, with concentrated fruits of cut lime, pear, custard-apple. A delicately textured and layered mid-palate is defined by natural laced acidity, creating the corridor. Savory notes and spice work in symmetry, carrying a long finish with gentle talc-like tension.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 93 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.

