

2020 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

Review Summary



99 pts “It would not surprise me if this was considered the greatest Leeuwin chardonnay yet. You would get no argument from me... there is elegance and power here. Subtle layered wine. It was a year of great concentration and power. Has pear and lime character that is part of the DNA. The fruit is generous, especially about the mid palate. Has a subtle and not overstated flinty character with a lift of spice. The oak is brilliantly managed and complementary. It’s very tight and precise and the whole-bunch technique gives it that stalky, phenolics character. There’s a savory almond meal character on the finish. Incredible length and power here. The minerally character on the finish is quite pronounced. In the top three, certainly, of any Leeuwin chardonnay.”

Ray Jordan
Australia Business News
February 2023

98 pts “The 2020 vintage in Margaret River was moderate to warm and will be forever remembered for the incredibly compacted harvest period, which started two weeks earlier than the 2019 harvest before it and was all wrapped up by Easter—that’s largely unheard of. The 2020 Art Series Chardonnay leads with power and density, not unlike the 2018 before it. Tight and green in the glass, you get salted pear, white peach, nectarine, red apple skins, preserved citrus and crushed shell. The wine has minerality and tension within the confines of the opulent fruit. Staggering length, as usual. The winemaking remains relatively consistent across the years: hand-picked fruit from Block 20 and 22 (planted in 1976 and 1978, respectively). Thirty percent of the cuvée was whole bunch pressed to 100% new Burgundian oak, while the balance was destemmed, crushed and pressed to 100% new Bordelais oak. Sulfured post-ferment in order to discourage malolactic fermentation, both components remain in barrel for 11 months. Super wine.”

Erin Larkin
Robert Parker Wine Advocate
July 2023

98 pts “Always one of our very greatest Chardonnays – Grand Cru, all the way. Crafted in 100% top-notch new French oak, this latest release is considered by many to be as good as any ever made, and it is hard to disagree. The wine is the palest yellow, with a nose immediately screaming complexity. Hazelnuts, stonefruits, florals, pears, matchsticks and



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spices, there is a fine minerally backing here, supporting the wine and maintaining intensity for the full, very long, journey. Integration of the oak is immaculate. Touches of the lime notes, typical in this wine, are evident, as is that more-ish salinity on the conclusion. Great intensity, and yet such is the balance that it seems almost imperceptible. Power, layering, elegance and extraordinary length. I gave it 98, but that seems a little cruel. It will drink beautifully for a decade or two and no doubt reach even higher levels.”

Ken Gargett
WinePilot
May 2023

97 pts “Pale lemon yellow. White nectarine, sea spray, roast hazelnut, and crushed sage aromatics. Palate fills with an intensity and power that makes you immediately sit up and focus. There’s a ripeness of fruit but with the saline minerality, touch of struck flint and layers upon layers of delicate oak spices it never stops offering more facets of its brilliance. Line, length and drive all harmonize to the never-ending finish.”

Stuart Knox
The Real Review
January 2023

97 pts “A wine that tells the story of chardonnay’s evolution in Margaret River and remains at the top of its game because it’s a pure expression of place as much as the producer. It’s refreshing, classy and superfine, the acidity reining everything in and towards an outrageously long finish. Mesmerizing.”

Jane Faulkner
Halliday Wine Companion
August 2023

#12/TOP 100 Australian Wines of 2023 | 97 pts “Tauter than vintages of yore, boasting complex aromas of pear distillate, citrus verbena, nougat, cashew, cedar-tinged oak and succulent white peach. Immaculately constructed, pure and rather wonderful. Founded on a tensile stream of pungent mineral, transcendental poise and scintillating length. There is little out of place here. Superb New World chardonnay. Drink or hold.”

Ned Goodwin MW
JamesSuckling.com
November 2023



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95 pts “Vibrant lemon, honeydew melon, salty sea shell and toast open this unmistakably Margaret River Chard. A mineral streak of saline acidity crackles through the middle of the rich, textural mouthfeel, streamlining and providing refreshment amid the toast and lees characters. An impressive wine that deftly demonstrates this classic producer’s—as well as this region’s—Chardonnay prowess.”

Christina Pickard
Wine Enthusiast
October 2023

95 pts “This stunning version is a fresh, sleek and precise expression of Chardonnay, with bright flavors of peach, lemon zest and candied ginger, plus floral notes of jasmine, orange blossom and dried sage. Hints of salted, buttery shortbread, green cardamom and toasted sesame seed linger on the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2036.”

MaryAnn Worobiec
Wine Spectator
April 2024