

2022 LEEUWIN ESTATE ART SERIES CHARDONNAY



WINEMAKER: Tim Lovett
REGION: Margaret River, Western Australia
VARIETALS: Chardonnay
MATURATION: 10 months in 100% new French oak barriques
ANALYSIS: 14.0% alc/vol | 7.40g/L TA | 3.11 pH

VINTAGE: 2022 provided a fantastic vintage at Leeuwin Estate. Spring 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. Harvest commenced on February 4 with Pinot Noir, followed by the harvest of all whites by March 15.

WINEMAKING: Cool, destemmed fruit was held on skins then combined with components of whole-bunch pressed parcels. The juice was settled for 12-36 hours, racked, and inoculated with yeast. The juice (100%) was barrel fermented in new French oak barriques, and the lees stirred regularly. After 10 months in barrels, the various components were blended, fined, cold stabilized and bottled.

TASTING NOTES: The palate is detailed and ethereal. Pear greets nectarine, white peach and lemon curd. Woven and harmonious, it unfolds to a graphite and mineral thread, with a touch of sherbet, aniseed and cardamom. Gentle textures open through the mid-palate with vibrant natural acidity, amidst a black tea, talc and chalk-like finish featuring characteristic length.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 97 pts Wine Advocate, 97 pts Decanter

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.

