

# 2024 LEEUWIN ESTATE

## PRELUDE VINEYARDS CHARDONNAY



**WINEMAKER:** Phil Hutchison  
**REGION:** Margaret River, Western Australia  
**VARIETALS:** Chardonnay  
**MATURATION:** 10 months in French oak barriques (35% new)  
**ANALYSIS:** 14.0% alc/vol | 7.35 g/L TA | 3.14 pH

**VINTAGE:** 2024 was another outstanding year for Margaret River wines. Winter was generally mild. Chardonnay burst early, reaching 100% budburst by August 18. The season was dry, with the last significant rain falling in mid-September. Warm conditions meant the season started and finished earlier than average. Chardonnay handpicking began on January 30 and continued for several weeks, with fine, sunny, mild mornings perfect for preserving the delicate aromatics and flavors of the fruit. Calm harvest mornings were filled with the delicate, sweet, honey-like scent of the blossom-laden Marri red eucalyptus trees. The bloom kept birds entirely distracted during the white harvest, preventing damage to the fruit.

**WINEMAKING:** Cool crushed Gin Gin clone fruit. Some parcels had skin contact in the press to extract dimension and fruit phenolic tension. The juice was settled for 3 days, racked, and all parcels were fermented in French barriques, 35% new and the remainder were one year old. After fermentation, the batches were stirred on a weekly basis for almost 2 months to build early integration and complexity. Then the batches were stirred regularly on a 2-week basis. After 10 months in barrels, individual parcels were blended, lightly fined, stabilized and bottled.

**TASTING NOTES:** The nose opens with lively zest, citrus, pear, and peach skin, followed by succulent white nectarine. Delicate citrus blossom notes with a subtle touch of toast and oak that frames the vibrant fruit. On the palate, ripe lime, white nectarine, zest, and pear notes are carried through beautiful palate weight in perfect harmony with crisp acidity. The finish is long and balanced, creating an impression of poise, offering immediate approachability while promising rewards from mid-term cellaring.

**CRITICAL ACCLAIM:** Not yet rated. Previous vintage: 94 pts Wine Advocate, 93 pts JamesSuckling.com, 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.

