Leeuwin Estate

Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay 2020 is an exemplary Margaret River Chardonnay, offering depth, minerality, and a precise structure. With notes of citrus, stone fruit, and subtle oak, this wine embodies finesse and vibrancy.

LEEUWIN ESTATE
THE ART OF FINE WINE

98

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Chardonnay

Art Series Chardonnay 2020

Margaret River, Australia

Region and Vineyards

Margaret River, in **Western Australia**, is known for its ideal conditions for Chardonnay, with a cool, maritime climate that enables grapes to develop slowly, retaining acidity and enhancing aromatic depth. The **2020 growing season** began with a wet winter, providing ample water reserves, followed by a warm, sunny spring that led to an early budburst for Chardonnay. Mild temperatures during the ripening season allowed for extended hang time, producing fruit with notable **natural acidity and fruit intensity**.

The diverse sites at Leeuwin Estate contribute to a complex expression in each vintage. The region's gravelly soils, combined with the cooling breezes from the Indian Ocean, support the vibrant acidity and minerality that define the Art Series Chardonnay.

Winemaking

The **2020 Art Series Chardonnay** was crafted from **100% Chardonnay**. The cool, destemmed fruit was combined with select whole-bunch pressed parcels, with the juice settled for 12 to 36 hours. The juice was **100% barrel-fermented in new French oak barriques** to build texture and complexity. The lees were stirred regularly throughout the **11-month aging period**, enhancing mouthfeel and depth.

After maturation, the wine components were blended, fined, and cold-stabilized before bottling. The result is a Chardonnay with a balanced profile, expressing vibrant fruit flavors with a textured finish.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Pale straw with a golden hue, showing depth.
- **Aroma**: Aromatic layers of lemon curd, nashi pear, and citrus blossom, with nuances of vanilla, flint, and tea leaf.
- **Palate**: Focused and precise, with juicy white peach, pear, and a saline mineral finish, characteristic of the vintage.

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Art Series Chardonnay 2020

Did You Know?

Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay first gained international recognition with its 1980 vintage, establishing it as one of Australia's premier Chardonnays. The Art Series line is known for its labels featuring Australian art, making each bottle collectible.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Lobster Thermidor**: The wine's acidity and citrus notes enhance the richness of lobster and creamy sauces, balancing and brightening the dish.
- **Roast Chicken with Truffle Butter**: The mineral and flinty notes resonate with the earthiness of truffle, while the Chardonnay's vibrant acidity complements the chicken's savory flavors.
- **Scallops with Lemon Zest and Thyme**: The bright, citrus-driven palate complements scallops' sweetness, while the oak influence matches their caramelized crust.
- **Risotto with Aged Parmesan and White Asparagus**: The Chardonnay's texture harmonizes with the creaminess of the risotto, and the saline finish accentuates the Parmesan's umami depth.

98

Robert Parker (RP) : 98 Points (2020)

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.

98 Decanter

Decanter (DCT) : 98 Points (2020)

This vintage is a triumph, with firm fruit surrounded by a rigid suit of armor that compresses its flanks and ratchets up the drama. This adds immeasurable length to the flavor without any diminuendo in power or persistence. The fruit is cradled with beautiful blonde oak and shot through with sublime pith and herb details allowing the flavors to transcend expectation.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2020)

*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. Mesmerising. *Gold* (JF) (8/2023)*