



LEEWIN ESTATE  
*The art of fine wine*

## 2002 ART SERIES CHARDONNAY

### WINEMAKER'S TASTING NOTES

The colour is vibrant straw with green edges.

Aromas show very intense dried pears and figs with depth and richness enhanced by the subtle flavours of specially selected French oak.

On the palate the ripe fruit flavours of dried pears are again pronounced with delicate richness from the lees stirring.

The wine is long and full flavoured yet elegant with great depth and lovely ripe peach aftertaste which is in perfect harmony with the oak.

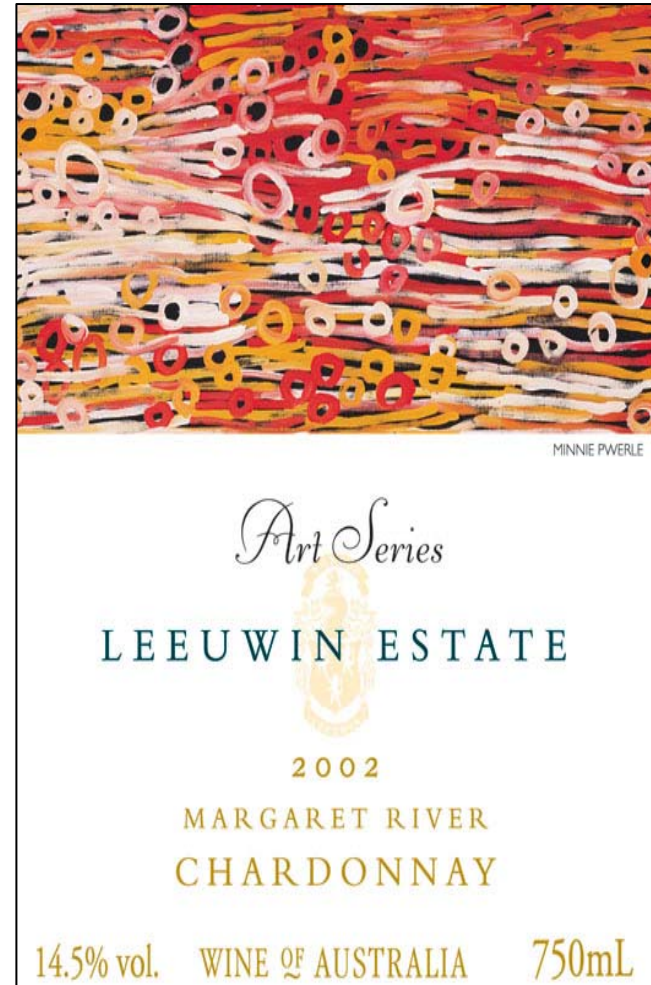
### COMMENTS

Shows yet again why this is the best Chardonnay in Australia; flawless and seamless balance and integration of all of the chardonnay-making techniques without imperilling the elegant stone fruit and melon running through an endless palate. Rating 97. Drink 2015

*James Halliday - Australian Wine Companion 2007 Ed*

"92 pts - Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay 2002.

Selected predominantly from a block of chardonnay planted in 1974, Leeuwin's Art



Series proves its worth through the course of long aging. The vines grow on a gravelly hill facing northwest, naturally low-yielding on old, granitic soils. As the wine opens in the glass, it builds from rich and smoky toward complexity and finesse, the flavors developing into loquat, dried honey and beeswax. Then it finishes clean, breezy and cool, for marron in Margaret River, or crab in the States."

*US Wine & Spirits magazine – February 2006*

### **"Wine Spectator" Top 100 wines of 2005**

Leeuwin Estate's 2002 Art Series Chardonnay (96 points) has been ranked in the top 100 (number 28) wines tasted in 2005 by the editors of US Magazine "Wine Spectator".

"Long live the king, and there is no death here. This vintage shows yet again why this is the best chardonnay in Australia. It effortlessly shows the flawless and seamless balance and integrations of all the winemaking techniques without imperilling the supremely elegant stone fruit, citrus and melon running through a seemingly endless palate. So there. 97 points Drink: Now – 2015"

*Hallidays Top 101, Weekend Australian, 19-20 November 2005*

"Far superior, and one of Australia's most profound Chardonnays, is the 2002 Chardonnay Art Series. Always more backward and built for the long term, the 2002 exhibits buttered pear, honeyed citrus, lemon blossom, and apple-like fruit in a medium to full bodied format with good acidity as well as a cooler climate mouthfeel and finish. It should drink well for 5 – 6 years (92 points)"

*Robert Parker Jnr, The Wine Advocate, USA, October 31, 2005*

If you think you've seen everything that Leeuwin Estate could throw at its Art Series Chardonnay, think again. The 2002 Vintage of this stellar wine will earn the right to be classed amongst the very greatest of its kind. One of the most drinkable wines I have tasted for some time, it is complete, satisfying, seductive and very desirable. Every taste conjures something else - another flavour, another texture, another association. It's effortless, it's delicious and it's the most complete Leeuwin Estate I can ever remember at this stage of its development. While wines like the 2001 might live for longer, this will give incredible pleasure before it ultimately fades.

Its alluring bouquet opens with fresh primary aromas of quince, grapefruit, cumquat and spicy, rather perfumed oak, with lightly herbal undertones of lime juice and wheatmeal. Frankly, though, it's the palate that is simply astonishing. It's creamy, juicy and vibrant, delivering a seamless expression of fruit that is initially restrained, but which builds steadily towards a lingering crescendo of assertive, powerful Margaret River chardonnay, without ever losing its effortless elegance and fineness. While there's a hint of minerality at the finish and a suggestion of bacon-like malolactic influence, this wine is all about brightness and intensity, sublime control and integration. Its expression and definition of stonefruit, citrus and melon chardonnay fruit is near perfect, while its babyfat-like viscosity eases into a lingering finish of tautness and assertive definition.

Given the typical Leeuwin Estate treatment of 100% barrel fermentation and battonage in brand new (mainly Seguin-Moreau) oak, it's from a season rather succinctly described by its maker Bob Cartwright as 'very good', with a long, cool and dry summer'. When you make wine as good as this, there's absolutely no need to waste words whatsoever.

***2005 WINE OF THE YEAR - Jeremy Oliver's 2006***

"A great wine of penetrating grapefruit/citrus, honey and nougat flavours. Powerful and long-lasting. Lively acidity carries the flavour and cuts through the considerable weight and richness of the palate." 7+ points

***Australian Gourmet Traveller Aug/Sept 2005***

"Fragrant nectarine; citrus and melon with subtly interwoven oak through bouquet and palate; immaculate balance, great length. Cork. Rating 96 points Drink 2012."

***James Halliday's Wine Companion 2006***

"This latest edition of Margaret River's flagship chardonnay has a subtle interplay of grapefruit and nectarine-like fruit and beautifully integrated classy oak. It's pure and intense, and while lacking the "worked" nature of some top chardonnays, it makes it up in finesse of flavour and texture. It finishes long and soft."

***Ralph Kyte Powell, Epicure, The Age. 26th July 2005***

"Light gold. Tangy, high-pitched aromas of Meyer lemon, pear, apple, spicy Asian basil, vanilla and clove. Round and supple but firmly built, with refreshing, bright flavors of ripe pears, Granny Smith apple and musky yellow plum. There's nothing tropical going on here, just a highly impressive collection of ripe orchard fruits. This has excellent flavor definition and structure, finishing with a brisk note of blood orange and subtle hints of hazelnut and oak spice. 93 points"

***Stephen Tanzer, www.wineaccess.com, July 2005***

This vintage may turn out to be one of the best of all for this famed label. The '02 is a very restrained chardonnay of considerable power, length and acidity. Subtle barrel ferment, complexity and seamless oak integration are other highlights of a wine that should age gracefully for a decade at least. OUTSTANDING

***WINEWISE - JUNE 14 2005***

"Leeuwin Estate's Art Series Chardonnay is considered by many of our judges to be Australia's standout of the variety. This iconic Margaret River wine has clearly been Leeuwin Estate's flagship ever since winemaker Bob Cartwright oversaw its first release (1980 vintage) 25 years ago around \$13 a bottle - then Australia's most expensive chardonnay.

The latest release (2002) from this state-of-the-art winery made famous by its superb chardonnays, cabernets and rieslings, as well as its star-studded concerts, provides little change from \$80.

The wine features an amalgam of fruit and oak flavours that's simply out of this world. I'd recommend enjoying this wine in the next two years, believing chardonnay, even the finest of them, often begins to lose their appeal if left for too long."

*The Sunday Times Body + Soul, page 14, Sunday, 24 April 2005, John Fordham*

"If you think you've seen everything that Leeuwin Estate could throw at its Art Series Chardonnay, think again. I am currently on Night Number Two of my bottle of the 2002 vintage of this stellar wine, a wine that in my opinion will earn the right to be classed amongst the very greatest of its kind. Leaving anything too technical or descriptive aside for the moment, this is one of the most drinkable wines I have tasted for some time. It is complete, satisfying, seductive and very desirable. Every taste conjures something else - another flavour, another texture, another association.

It's effortless, it's delicious and it's the most complete Leeuwin Estate I can ever remember at this stage of its development. Having watched this wine over around thirty hours, my tasting note is perhaps a little more detailed than for most wines. I make no apology. It's still a pale bright yellow straw colour, and it's stable and vibrant, set for the long term.

The bouquet opens with fresh primary aromas of quince, grapefruit, cumquat and spicy, rather perfumed oak, with lightly herbal undertones of lime juice and wheatmeal. It's alluring, and easily absorbs what I expect is a fairly high proportion of smoky, toasty new French oak.

Encouragingly, the nose appears to be less influenced by oak on day two, a genuine indication that its balance is spot-on. For whatever reason, it won't be lack of fruit that prevents it from cellaring for at least the Leeuwin Estate Art Series guaranteed minimum of 8-12 years. Frankly, though, it's the palate that is simply astonishing. It's creamy, juicy and vibrant, delivering a seamless expression of fruit that is initially restrained, but which builds steadily towards a lingering crescendo of assertive, powerful Margaret River chardonnay, without ever losing its effortless elegance and fineness. While there's a hint of minerality at the finish and a suggestion of bacon-like malolactic influence, this wine is all about brightness and intensity, sublime control and integration. It could have been made by Greg Chappell. It has much in common with the silky and polished Pierro Chardonnay from the same vintage, but perhaps with even a little more structure and complexity.

Its expression and definition of stonefruit, citrus and melon chardonnay fruit is near perfect, while its babyfat-like viscosity eases into a lingering finish of tautness and assertive definition. It lasts and lasts, unlike the un-bottomless bottle in my possession, about which my only lingering regret is the fact that I poured about half its quantity into the glass operated by my wife. This truly is a great, world-class Australian chardonnay that happens to be widely distributed.

Whatever you do, don't miss out on the experience of drinking it. I rate it more highly than any other previous vintage of this exceptional wine. Drink 2010-2014+."

*ONWINE - AUSTRALIAN WINE WITH JEREMY OLIVER [www.onwine.com.au](http://www.onwine.com.au)*

"I can't remember a bad Art Series Chardonnay. Admittedly, I haven't tried them all, but the previous statement is testament to the attention to detail and sheer dedication that has gone into crafting one of Australia's true benchmark wines over many years.

As always , the mind wanders back to comparisons of previous vintages. The 2001 offering was, to my mind, a complete wine, exotic and powerful with layers of flavour and complexity. It is a very hard act to follow.

2002 has brought a wine of similar stature. Splitting hairs, I would say that at the same point in time the 2001 was slightly more approachable, with the 2002 showing youthful precocity through its lively acid and spicy oak overtones. Nonetheless, it is a beautiful wine, showing abundant dried fruit characters (peach and pear), grilled nuts, oatmeal and wheaten hay. It has the trademark silken mouthfeel of all the Art Series Chardonnays, with a softness that belies the strength and vigour of the components that make up the wine. When you add this to the exceptional length and overall balance , the result is once again a wine of great poise and immaculate breeding. Give it a few years and it will be even better. Outstanding. Points 95, Drink 2008-2018."

*Grant Dodd, <http://www.thewiningpro.com/wine/orderOfMerit.cfm>*

"Drinking Leeuwin chardonnay is almost always a serious business. It's a wine for contemplation, for thoughtful consideration. It's complex, elegant and, well, serious. The 2002, which was released the night of the Leeuwin concert, is a delight: more forward than usual, deliciously juicy, delicate, opulent, powerful and succulent. I've long considered the Art Series the best example of chardonnay produced in Australia."

*"Art of the Matter", The Sunday Times, Peter Forrestal, March 20 2005*

"Given that Australia's Greatest Chardonnays are far superior to our best Sauvignon Blancs, Semillons and even Rieslings, and that Leeuwin Estate has produced about 8 of our best 12 Chardonnays, it follows that the just released 2002 Art Series Chardonnay is amongst Australia's greatest 12 white wines – ever...From Invinity's point of view the 2002 Leeuwin Art Series Chardonnay is one of Australia's greatest white wines ever.

The bouquet is made up of fine, but obvious, very long and crafted stone fruit characters, almost to hints of dried apricots, with orange rind and grapefruit flavours. The length is outstanding by Australian standards.

On the palate, the wine is more opulent than the 1997, 1999 and 2001 releases, but finer than the 2000 blockbuster. This is an Australian style, and it does not have the 'mealy and minerality' characters of European chardonnays. It shows round, full, very long, harmonious and opulent fruit characters. The fruit flavours are dense and intense, and envelop and hide the deceptively high structuring acid components. The oak craftsmanship is so fine that you have to focus to be aware of its quality and deft handling.

All of this would make a marvellous Australian Chardonnay in its own right, but it is the enormous length, (wine quality's key component), that separates "Leeuwin from the boys" and this wine from most Leeuwins, and it is this that allows this wine to excel.

The superbly balanced mouthfeel and textures cascade satisfyingly over the various parts of the palate and then linger luxuriously – confirming the extraordinary fruit quality from the low crop levels from the long, cool 2002 vintage.

We have yet to see any flavour development, but this is so good, that it just might be, with 1982 and 1995, the greatest ever. 18.9 Points – and its going to get better.

*John Jens, Invinity, 8th March 2005*

"The current release of Art Series Chardonnay is the 2002 (\$65). If you're accustomed to Aussie chardonnay that's fat and even a little sweet -- or, for that matter, California chardonnay that's oaky and alcoholic -- the Leeuwin will be a revelation. It combines power with delicacy, showing a lean, lemony core along with creamy pear flavors and some toastiness. It promises great things."

*Laurie Daniel. Special to the Mercury News (USA) Feb. 15, 2006*