

Leeuwin tops the collectors' wine list



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The Leeuwin Estate Art Series Chardonnay, long regarded as the pre-eminent chardonnay in Australia, is now our most collected white wine.

The iconic Margaret River chardonnay was named the most collected white wine in the country by respected Melbourne wine scribe Jeremy Oliver at a function in Sydney today.

The results come after an inventory of the three million bottles of wine held by Australia's biggest wine storage provider Wine Ark, which has 11 storage facilities across Australia.

The status of Penfold's Grange as Australia's most iconic wine was further cemented when it was confirmed as the most collected red wine in the country.

Wine Ark founder and managing director Dean Taylor said the \$250 million worth of wine in its safekeeping included more than 25,000 bottles of Grange, among them a 1951 Penfold's Grange valued at \$50,000.

Wine writer Oliver said recent tough economic times had not dented people's enthusiasm for fine wine.

"We've found many people are still keen to spend significant money on expensive wine, particularly when it comes to stocking their cellars," he said.

Taylor said wine storage was proving popular with empty-nesters who had downsized from a big family home to a small apartment and no longer had space to keep their wine collections.

Wine Ark stores collections from 8500 customers like celebrities actor Toni Collette to expatriates and mums and dads saving a special bottle for a child's 18th birthday.