



## 2003 THE IRONSTONE PRESSINGS GRENACHE SHIRAZ MOURVEDRE

### Region

McLaren Vale, South Australia

### Varieties

Grenache (70%)

Shiraz (23%)

Mourvedre (7%)

### Maturation

10 months in new, one and two year old French and American oak barriques

### Technical Analysis

14.5% alc/vol

### Background

Most of McLaren Vale's acclaimed and ancient vineyard land is impregnated with ancient, decomposed laterite granite known as "Ironstone". Its extraordinary rusty red-brown color is derived from the iron oxides present in the stone. The larger pieces were cleared from the vineyard late last century and utilized in many of the buildings at d'Arenberg and in the district.

It is indeed fitting that "Ironstone" is the first name given to this old Osborn family favorite as it helps, both above and below ground to produce our traditional pressings wine.



### Tasting Notes

2003 is characterized by a very low winter rainfall which signaled the vine to minimize potential crop load. The ripening period was warm producing a crop load of small berries and very pure ripe fruit characters. Warm years like this is perfect for ripening Grenache as the ambient heat allows the full development of the potpourri and spice characters particularly as our many Grenache vineyards are planted across a range of diverse soil structures from red soils, hard rock, shale to limestone, deep clays and sand.

The appearance is characterized by the vintage. Dark vibrant saturated colors. The wine is dominated by the fragrance of red berries, spice, sour to roasted cherry, plum, cut flower stems. Very youthful and compressed with the oak barely noticeable.

Full bodied, intense and juicy with amazing persistence of flavor. It's forward but very backward in style due to its youth. The Grenache and Shiraz is very pure, thick and very red in flavors dominated by an elevated spice, mulberry, potpourri fruits and licorice characters while the ripe salami, iodine, lavender characters of the Mourvedre is very evident.

### Additional Notes:

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