



2005 THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

d'ARRYS AND CHESTER'S WINE-MAKING
PHILOSOPHY THE ART OF BEING
DIFFERENT



d'Arenberg winery has managed to turn individuality into an art form by doing a whole lot of little things differently. The names of their wines illustrate the point. We admit they are a bit odd, but because they have real significance, the stories behind the names are on the back labels.

VINEYARD

In 1912, Joseph Osborn purchased the well-established vineyard just north of the township of McLaren Vale. Joseph's son, Frank, built d'Arenberg's cellars in 1927. By 1957, Frank's son, d'Arry, had bottled the first of the famous diagonal red striped wines. Enter the fourth generation, d'Arry's son, Chester, who took over the reigns in 1984. In 1990, Chester was crowned, "McLaren Vale Bushing King," for producing the best table wine in McLaren Vale and in December, 2005, *The Wine Advocate* declared him, "Wine Personality of the Year."

HANDCRAFTED WINES AND BASKET PRESSING

Four generations of learning have provided current Chief Winemaker, Chester Osborn with an intimate knowledge of his vineyards (now totaling over 345 acres) and a healthy respect for the differing fruit characters obtained from the individual vineyard sites. Nineteenth century basket presses are extensively utilized to press the fruit, both white and red, providing a gentle extraction of juice. Much of the red fruit is fermented in 5 ton wax-lined, headed down, open fermenters. Both American and French oak barriques are used extensively.

2005 THE LAUGHING MAGPIE

REGION

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Variety: Shiraz (94%), Viognier (6%)

Maturation: 12 months in American and French oak barriques

Technical Analysis: 14.5% alc/vol

INFORMATION

The vineyards and bushland that surround the d'Arenberg winery are home to the unique native Australian bird, the Kookaburra, famous for its distinctive laughing call. Winemaker Chester Osborn's daughters named their two wild pet Kookaburras the "Laughing Magpies." The Magpie plumage is black with a stripe of white feathers and bears no resemblance to its famous cousin, but the name has stuck as it is the perfect choice for McLaren Vale's first ever Shiraz (black) Viognier (white) blend.

The 2005 vintage had low to moderate winter rains. The summer was cool and dry followed by a very dry, warm autumn that allowed many varieties to ripen early. These early ripening varietals display great fruit and floral aromatics with excellent concentration.

The 2005 Laughing Magpie displays aromas of dark plums, spice, blueberries and flowers. The palate is juicy and long, expressing characters of black fruits, Satsuma plums, black-currents, licorice, and a hint of wild honey sweetness from the Viognier. This young, full-bodied wine will benefit greatly from additional time in the cellar.





The Laughing Magpie Shiraz Viognier 2005

Robert Parker's

THE WINE ADVOCATE

OCT 2006

93 pts

Year in and year out, one of the most exotic, flamboyant, and sexiest cuvees in the d'Arenberg portfolio is The Laughing Magpie Shiraz/Viognier. The 2005 exhibits a spring flower garden-like character interwoven with blackberries, creme de cassis, melted licorice, and sweet, toasty new oak. Opulent and voluptuous, with silky tannin, and a plump, fleshy, rich, full-bodied personality, this offering is meant to be consumed over the next 5-8 years.