



2006 d'ARENBERG THE DEAD ARM Review Summary



96 pts ★★★★★ “Deep, dark and brooding with blackberry and blueberry fruits, plenty of roasted coffee-scented oak making itself known here too, and there’s black licorice and tarry intensity. The palate wrenches itself into place and really grabs deep. Flavors rest in the plum and black fruit spectrum and are wound through muscular tannins—the intensity is staggering—with some darker, almost minerally flavors building through to the finish. Worthy of many years in the cellar, this wine will live for a long, long time. “

Nick Stock
Penguin 2010 Good Australian Wine Guide

95+ pts “d’Arenberg’s flagship is the 2006 The Dead Arm Shiraz. Opaque purple-colored, the nose is reticent but gives up aromas of meat, bacon, game, truffles, blueberry, and blackberry. Firm, layered, and complex, this beautifully rendered Shiraz demands a decade of cellaring. It will be superb from 2018 to 2036.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com
February, 2009

95 pts “The Dead Arm rarely fails to deliver an uncompromising essay on McLaren fruit; deeply concentrated with levels of dark chocolate, blackberry, nuances of florals and a freshness that belies its weight and power. Good value.”

James Halliday
2009 Australian Wine Companion

95 pts GW: “Goodness me this is ferrous and dryly tannic with an appetising mix of blackberry, blueberry, beef stock, pepper, licquorice and toasty oak. There’s a dried herb/chicory sort of thing going on which is most pleasant..... I like this vintage a great deal.”

“I like this vintage a great deal too. I reckon it is thick with flavour but it’s smooth and even and, in its style, delicious. I like the call on chicory – with a spot of coffee attached. Thick, luscious, smooth skinned blackberry and blueberry with creamy, cedary, toasty oak coming hand in glove. Even, structured, silken finish- it’s as good as any Dead Arm I have tasted.”

Gary Walsh and Campbell Mattinson
The Wine Front, October 2008



95 pts “The Dead Arm is one of a handful of Australian Shiraz that is a top performer vintage after vintage. The name comes from a vine disease that reduces one arm of a vine to dead wood, while the rest of the vine produces intensely-flavored grapes. Aged 20 months in French and American oak, the '06 Dead Arm is plump with dark fruits and berries, hints of anise and complex berry and chocolate flavors. The tannins are ripe and refined and the finish, at 14.5% alcohol, is complete and promising. Here is an excellent Australian Shiraz for the ages and a solid bargain.”

Gerald D. Boyd, Wine Review Online
November 4, 2008

95 pts “Exquisite and powerful expression of this famous wine. The name comes from a vine disease that can reduce the arm of an old vine to dead wood. But there’s nothing dead in this spicy, silky seamless wine displaying all the usual black cherry, black olive and concentrated blueberry and blackberry characters. Complete and effortless.”

Ray Jordan, The West Australian
February 2009

94 pts “And they reckon they can teach winemaking in universities.”

Phillip White, www.drankster.blogspot.com
October 2008

93 pts “Rich ripe and plump in the house style but with a savoury character creeping in and giving it an edge; a good style, very enjoyable.”

Tony Keys, The Key Review of Wines
December 2008

93 pts “Opaque ruby. Blackberry and candied cherry on the nose, with suave graphite and anise qualities adding complexity. Deep and rich but also focused, with powerful dark berry preserve flavors and a late kick of iron. There's lots going on here, and this energetic wine is still painfully young. Finishes with mounting sweetness and a strong echo of minerals.

Josh Raynolds, Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar
Sept/Oct 2008

91 pts “Lush and ripe, with an earthy animal component to the generous cherry, currant and exotic spice flavors that keep sailing on the long, supple finish.”

Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator
September 30, 2009



90 pts – CELLAR SELECTION “Because of its often formidable structure, d’Arenberg’s The Dead Arm is a difficult wine to evaluate when young. The 2006 is dark and extracted, with intense cassis, coffee and chocolate notes but not much complexity or elegance. Those should come with time; the firmness of the lingering finish suggests cellaring through 2014.”

Wine Enthusiast
August 2009

17.5 out of 20 “Meaty, intense, bold black fruit with a really attractive earthy tone. On the palate, hocolate, beef stock, eucalyptus, charcoal, barbecue smoke, really charming and likeable. Weighty and full– on but with complexity to match.”

Jancisrobinson.com
2010

GRAND GOLD MEDAL

MUNDUSvini International Wine Awards 2009

“Medium to dark garnet in color, this wine smells of cassis and blackberry with a nice violet note. In the mouth the wine has a rich cassis and blackberry-with-briar flavor, and rich velvety tannins that coat the mouth and grip the edges of the tongue tightly as the wine finishes for a long time with a hint of brown sugar and cedar. Much better than a bottle of the same vintage I had nearly a week prior. Score: between 9 and 9.5.”

Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com
April 3, 2010

“The gruesome sounding name is a reference to a vine disease that, by killing one "arm" of the vine, often produces tremendously intense grapes on the other. Certainly d'Arenberg's flagship Shiraz is intense, with notes of white pepper and tobacco and layers of red and black fruit.”

Ray Isle, Food & Wine Magazine, “50 Must Try Classics”
October 2009