



2006 d'ARENBERG THE IRONSTONE PRESSINGS

Review Summary



96 pts - Top 100 Wines of the Year “A terrific statement of regionality and d’Arenberg style. Earth aromas, concentrated brambly dark fruits and savory spice. The palate is both balanced and concentrated in a complex, layered style. Best drop this in the decanter or, even better, in the cellar!

Wine News and Reviews
October 2009

95 pts “They’ve hit the jackpot here. It’s Grenache 70%, Shiraz 25% Mourvedre 5% and a 100% convincing example of the blend. The red licorice gives the Grenache game away but it’s otherwise ferrous and earthy with cut flower stems and rich black fruits all giving the impression of richness and depth. Full bodied and firm and not too sweet with enormous coiled power and appropriately dry tannin impact. The length is outstanding as is the satisfaction delivered.”

Gary Walsh, The Wine Front
November 2008

95 pts “A deep, full-bodied rendition of a classic McLaren Vale red blend. Black-olive, licorice and earth aromas, savoury in the mouth but rich in fruit. Pro-found and lush in flavour with a long, satisfying finish. Now to six-plus years.”

Huon Hooke, Sydney Morning Herald
March 2009

95 pts “Earthy, black olive/tapenade aromas, licorice, and a very deep, rich, fruit-sweet palate with a clean, savoury finish that lingers on and on. Deliciously long and satisfying”

Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine
May 2009

94 pts “A very serious example of this Southern Rhône blend; dark and minerally, with briary notes and a hint of spice; chewy, long, and with really vibrant fruit on the finish, this would reward a charry steak well.”

James Halliday
2009 Australian Wine Companion

94 pts “Devil Juice. You don’t need anything more sensual or sensuous or slithery than the sniff...So, bugger it, you drink a great gulp of it. You can also do this with Krug: just sink a tumbler of the stuff.”

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



93+ pts “The 2006 The Ironstone Pressings Grenache (70%)- Shiraz (25%)-Mourvedre(5%) offers a complex nose of cedar, leather, espresso, spice box, violets, black cherry, and blueberry compote. On the palate it offers up gobs of spicy, savory fruit, lovely integration of oak, tannin, and acidity, and a 45-second finish.”

Robert Parker, eRobertParker.com
February, 2009

92 pts - #82 Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2009

Wine Enthusiast
December 1, 2009

92 pts “Chester Osborn’s tip selection of Grenache blended with shiraz and mourvedre, this wine is named for the ironstone soil in which his family’s ancient vines grow. It has grenache’s lovely strawberry flavors, darkened by shiraz tannins but still lifted and refined. There’s a meaty smoked pork butt flavor that combines the wine’s oak with its earthy tannins. A substantial blend to age, and to decant as it matures for roast boar.”

Wine & Spirits – ‘Australia’s Best’
February 2009

91+ pts “Opaque ruby. Brooding, pungent red and dark berry aromas are complicated by cured tobacco, sandalwood and Indian spices. Broad and rich, with deep blackcurrant and cherry compote flavors and a firm structure that makes itself apparent with aeration. The grenache is in the background today, and the wine finishes with serious grip and sneaky persistence. I’d give this some cellar time.”

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

91 pts “A blend of 70% grenache, 25% shiraz and 5% mourvedre, the 2006 d’Arenberg The Ironstone Pressings possesses perfumed, fragrant aromas of violets, spice and licorice that are wrapped around a bright berry fruited core. The wine is medium to full bodied with an outstanding, focused texture, solid balance, gobs of fresh acidity and a clean, lively finish. Delicious now, I think this will continue to drink well over the next 8 to 10 years.”

Jebb Dunnuck, Jebb Dunnuck’s The Rhone Report
June 2010

89 pts “On the lower side of the d’Arenberg winery in McLaren Vale, the Ironstone Pressing vineyard soil is rich in iron, giving this 'GSM' blend greater body and tannin structure. Grenache dominates at 70%, with 25% Shiraz and Mourvedre making up the remaining 5% of the blend. McLaren Vale is known for its fruit-forward Shiraz and Rhône-style blends and this Ironstone Pressings doesn't disappoint. The nose is a bit closed in, but showing ample raspberry and floral notes over subtle oak. Ample flavors, refined tannins and a long intense finish at 15% alcohol, result in a well balanced blend with a little heat.”

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



GOLD MEDAL

2009 Concours Mondial de Bruxelles

BEST OF CLASS - GOLD MEDAL 2009 International Wine & Spirits Competition

“5% Mourvedre, 20% Shiraz and 75% Grenache, this wine has a medium ruby color, and a nose of cassis and cherry with a nice briary and leathery aspect. In the mouth the wine is velvety with muscular, lightly grippy tannins and flavors of sour cherry, raspberry, and new leather. Dried herb aromas emerge on the finish with some citrus oils. Nicely integrated and balanced, this is a very drinkable wine. Score: around 9.’

Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com
April 10, 2010

