



## 2008 d'ARENBERG THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE

<b>WINEMAKER :</b>	Chester Osborn
<b>REGION :</b>	McLaren Vale (92%), Adelaide Hills (8%), South Australia
<b>VARIETALS :</b>	Viognier (72%), Marsanne (28%)
<b>MATURATION :</b>	4% in older French oak barrels
<b>ALCOHOL :</b>	13.5% alc/vol   8.6 g/L TA   3.38 pH

### THE ART OF BEING DIFFERENT :

Many of McLaren Vale's vineyards are on free-draining soils underlain with limestone, formed by the calcareous remains of the local marine fauna. One such creature is the Hermit Crab, a reclusive little creature that inhabits the cast-off shells of others. Thus the Osborn family thought the name appropriate for this blend, as it is best enjoyed with shellfish and seafood dishes.

### VINTAGE NOTES :

2008 was a fabulous vintage for whites due to the intensity of flavor and ripeness achieved at high levels of natural acidity. Spring delivered average conditions with strong canopy growth due to adequate rainfall, keeping the vines stress free through veraison to harvesting. Harvest began early, but thanks to the cool weather experienced through February the wines retained abundant natural acidity while benefiting from superb ripening conditions.

### TASTING NOTES :

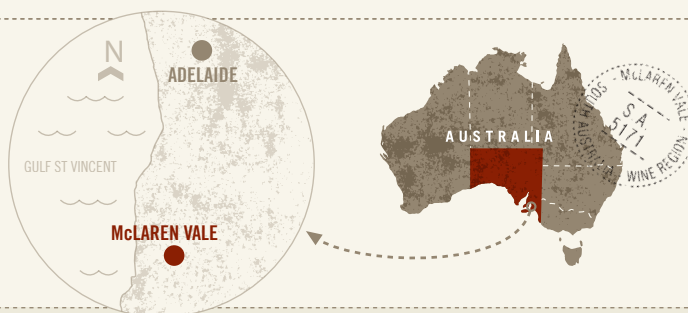
Expressive aromatics of lime and lemon with peaches, pears and apricot stone jumping out of the glass and spicy, floral notes in the background. Great balance on the palate, the luscious stone fruit and ginger spices harmonized with Marsanne's savory nutty characters. Wonderful combination of freshness, complexity and balance between fruit flavor, acid and alcohol.

### CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

**89 pts** Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, **88 pts** Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, **88 pts** Wine Spectator

### ABOUT d'ARENBERG :

One of the undisputed kings of Australian Shiraz and Rhone varietals, d'Arenberg has managed to turn individuality into an art form by doing a whole lot of little things differently. The original vineyards were established by Joseph Osborn in 1912 in the McLaren Vale region of South Australia. A century on, the estate has grown to 345 acres, and the mantle now rests with fourth-generation winemaker Chester Osborn. By maintaining a focus on traditional winemaking and nurturing their old-vines, the Osborn clan has successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of concentrated, characterful wines.



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