

2008 d'ARENBERG THE LOVE GRASS SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER:	Chester Osborn
REGION:	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS:	Shiraz (85%), Petit Verdot (5%), Cab. Sauv. (5%), Viognier (3%), Tempranillo (2%)
MATURATION:	20 months in new and older American & French oak barriques
ALCOHOL:	14.5% alc/vol 6.9 g/L TA 3.38 pH

BACKGROUND:

A wild grass, the Love Grass, often grows in the vineyards surrounding the d'Arenberg winery. During vintage, the sticky, Velcro-like, long stemmed flowers of the Love Grass affectionately attach themselves to the vineyard workers' socks. This Shiraz will also linger with you and, as such, the family thought it fitting to name this wine 'The Love Grass.'

VINTAGE NOTES:

2008 is a tale of two vintages for red wines in McLaren Vale. Winter rain ensured the soil reached filled capacity and set the vines up perfectly with healthy balanced canopies. A normal spring and an unseasonably cool January and February meant most vines remained stress free and flavor ripeness was achieved at reasonably low sugar levels and high natural acidity. A sustained heat wave in early March forced frantic picking and resulted in ripe characters. The Love Grass is a blend of early and late picked parcels.

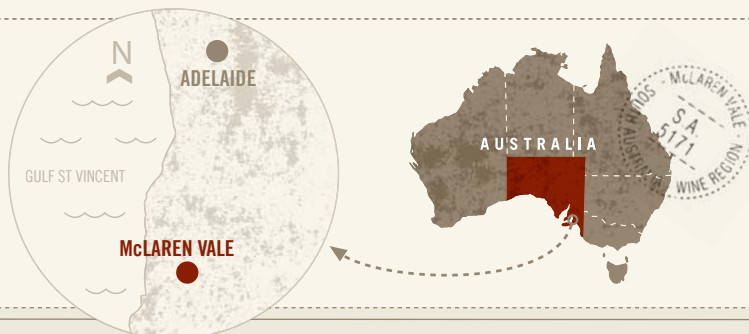
TASTING NOTES:

For what was a ripe year, the red and dark fruits are fresh and lifted with cinnamon spice and cured meat adding complexity on the nose. The palate is equally complex with plum, boysenberry and raspberry alongside more savory characters of charred meat, black olive and dark chocolate. There is a lot to take in with no shortage of characters to uncover but chalky dusty tannins pull the wine into focus nicely and provide for a long finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 89 pts The Wine Advocate, 89 pts Wine Enthusiast, 88+ pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 88/Best Buy Wine & Spirits

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-vine material, the Osborn clan has successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of concentrated, characterful wines.



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