



2008 d'ARENBERG THE OLIVE GROVE CHARDONNAY

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	McLaren Vale & Adelaide Hills, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Chardonnay
MATURATION :	30% in new and older French and American oak for 7 months
ANALYSIS :	13% alc/vol 6.7g/L TA 3.35 pH

BACKGROUND :

Since settlement in the 1840's, olive trees have thrived in McLaren Vale's coastal environment. Birds feed on the ripe fruit in the trees then try to carry them back to their nests. Many a stone is dropped from the sky, and there is a good chance an olive tree will pop up where it lands. Visitors will see plenty of these rogue trees along the road sides when touring McLaren Vale.

WINEMAKING :

After crushing, free run juice is cold soaked on its skins at 2°C for up to 20 hours prior to gentle basket pressing. A portion of the wine is then fermented on full solids, with 50% fermented in barrel, followed by maturation for 7 months in a combination of oaks. The balance is fermented in stainless steel to retain fresh fruit characters and abundant natural acidity. Once fermentation is complete, blending is undertaken, then the wine is bottled fresh to retain vibrancy.

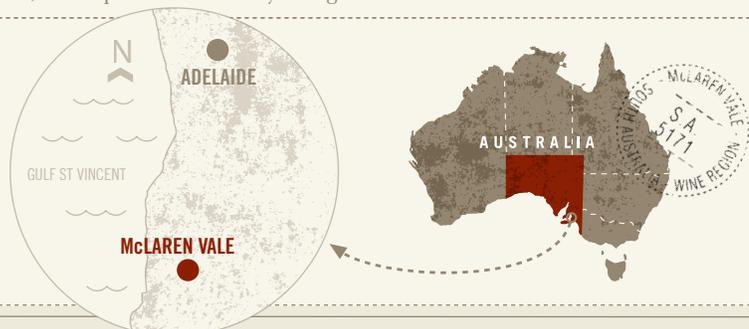
TASTING NOTES :

2008 was a fabulous vintage for white wines in McLaren Vale and the Adelaide Hills due to ample winter rains and cool ripening conditions. Fresh, focused aromas of white peach and nectarine are complexed by butter and popcorn. As the wine opens it delivers red apple, spices, and a hint of cinnamon oak. The palate is medium bodied, with good persistence of flavor in the green apple and melon rind spectrum, fine acidity and notable minerality.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 88 pts - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

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. Ranked among Australia's Top 10 Shiraz producers by Wine & Spirits Magazine in July 2007, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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