



2008 d'ARENBERG THE WILD PIXIE

WINEMAKER:	Chester Osborn
REGION:	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS:	Shiraz (95%), Roussanne (5%)
MATURATION:	12 months in new and older French and American oak
ALCOHOL:	14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND:

In a 2006 blending session of The Stump Jump White, Chester took the unusual step of adding a small parcel of the relatively unknown variety Roussanne. A well known wine journalist reviewed the finished wine and described Chester as a 'wild pixie' for concocting such a crazy blend. Taking the moniker as a compliment Chester was inspired to make an even more audacious blend involving Roussanne, this time combining it with Shiraz.

WINEMAKING:

Small batches are crushed and then transferred to five tonne headed-down open fermenters where the Roussanne and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two-thirds of the way through fermentation. When tannin extraction is just right the wine is basket pressed and transferred to oak barriques. The barrel fermented component is aged on lees to slow aging and keep the wine fresher while also reducing the oak influence.

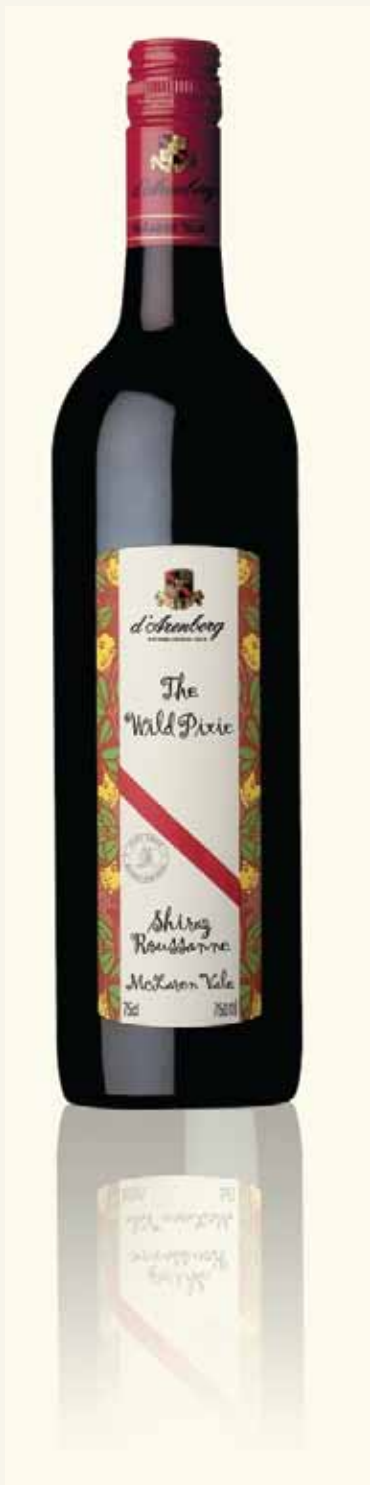
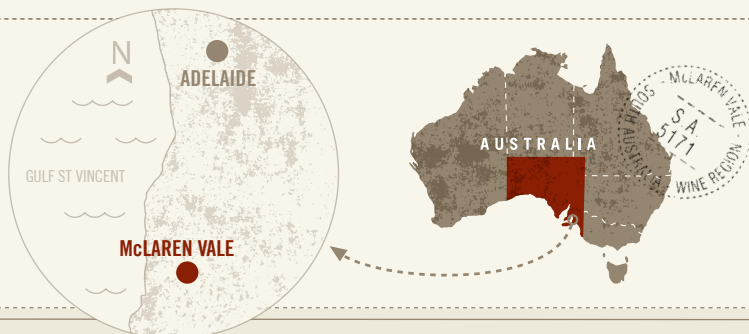
TASTING NOTES:

The nose reveals blueberry and violets leaping from the glass before a complex background of licorice and earthiness. The palate balances ripeness and elegance, exuding plum and blackberry notes before hints of smoked meats, forest floor and cinnamon stick are revealed. The earthy character is a real highlight as the palate builds nicely to a long finish.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 91 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar,
90+ pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate

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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