



2009 d'ARENBERG BLEWITT SPRINGS GRENACHE

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	Blewitt Springs sub-region - McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Grenache
MATURATION :	8-10 months in new & old French oak barriques
ALCOHOL :	14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND :

Blewitt Springs sub-region's boundaries are defined by the underlying geology, the majority of which is 34 to 56 million year-old North Maslin and South Maslin Sand. The geological description is cross-bedded medium and coarse grained sand. Within the wider McLaren Vale G.I, Blewitt Springs is located in the north eastern corner with altitudes in some vineyards of 200m above sea level making it the coolest of the sub regions. It is typically the last area to be picked, sometimes up to a month after the Beautiful View region. Much of this fruit is sourced for The Ironstone Pressings imparting elegance and fragrance.

WINEMAKING :

Fruit is gently crushed in an open-mouthed, rubber-toothed, Demoisy crusher before being transferred to open vessels for fermentation. Here the cap is permanently submerged beneath the free run juice, avoiding any harsh plunging or pumping over. Traditional foot-treading takes place after fermentation is complete, then gentle basket pressing precedes transfer to barrel for maturation.

TASTING NOTES :

The nose is vibrant and youthful with fruit characters of cherry, raspberry and rhubarb plus spices and fresh flowers in the background. The red fruit characters have intensity on the palate and are focused with a great balance of ripeness and flavor development. There is an underlying game character and dried savory herb nuances that build and are all balanced by the flowery, powder like tannins. Its natural acidity is a hallmark of Grenache from this sub-region and certainly features in this wine. This Grenache will benefit from careful cellaring for at least 15 years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

93 pts Stephen Tanzer, 91 pts Wine & Spirits, 91 pts Wine Spectator Insider

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 Osborns have successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of concentrated, characterful wines.



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