



2009 d'ARENBERG THE BONSAI VINE

WINEMAKER:	Chester Osborn
REGION:	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS:	Grenache (50%), Shiraz (45%), Mourvedre (5%)
MATURATION:	10 months in new and older American & French oak barriques
ANALYSIS:	14.5% alc/vol TA: 7.4 g/L pH: 3.26

BACKGROUND:

These old, dry grown bush vines grow in shallow soils on hard rock, requiring hand pruning to keep producing berries in this harsh environment. The vines are very small for their age, their tiny shoots giving them a bonsai appearance.

WINEMAKING:

Parcels of each varietal are gently crushed and fermented in small batches in traditional headed-down open fermenters, followed by foot-treading. The skins are then gently pressed in traditional 19th century 'Coq' and 'Bromley & Tregoning' basket presses prior to maturation in French and American oak barriques for 10 months.

TASTING NOTES:

The nose is full of vibrant fresh plum, raspberry, currant and cranberry with varietal spice and a lovely violet overtone. The elegant palate adds rhubarb to the fruit spectrum with a very attractive pink musk nuance on the mid palate and a savory kick. The balance of lifted fruits, lively acidity and mineral tannins will allow the wine to age well over the next 15 years.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

91pts Wine Spectator, 91 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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