



2009 d'ARENBERG THE FERAL FOX PINOT NOIR

WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: Adelaide Hills, South Australia
VARIETALS: Pinot Noir
MATURATION: 12 months in 5% new French oak barrels
ALCOHOL: 14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND:

The feral foxes that inhabit these Pinot vineyards have developed a healthy appetite for grapes, as their favorite meal, rabbit, has become quite scarce in recent years. d'Arenberg aren't fussed though, these critters supply cheap labor in the form of crop thinning and the distribution of natural organic fertilizer, enhancing the quality of the grapes too high to reach!

WINEMAKING:

Hand-picked fruit was crushed in a gentle Demoisy open-mouthed, rubber-toothed crusher prior to natural yeast fermentation in open vessels with a large percentage of whole clusters included. Extended maceration ensued to achieve structure, body and length of flavour, followed by traditional foot-treading in wader-clad feet. The fermenting juice was then gently basket-pressed, followed by nine months maturation in French oak barriques.

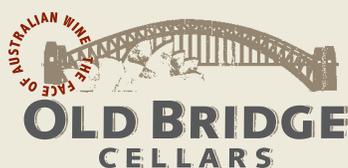
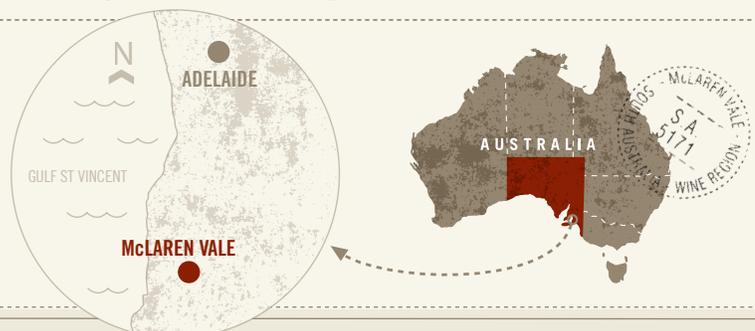
TASTING NOTES:

You barely have to raise the glass to your nose to get the lifted fresh cherry, raspberry and strawberry aromas. If you dig deeper there's a secondary layer of dried flowers, forest floor and spice to complement the pure fruit. The palate has no shortage of flavor with cranberry adding to red fruit spectrum and a gamey earthiness adds complexity. Natural acidity runs the length of the palate and the fine textural mineral tannins drive the wine to a long finish with an earthy savory kick.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM: 90 pts Stephen Tanzer's, 86 pts Robert Parker's

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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