



2009 d'ARENBERG THE FRUIT BAT SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	Single Vineyard - McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Shiraz
MATURATION :	18 months in new & older American & French oak barriques
ALCOHOL :	15% alc/vol

BACKGROUND :

There is an old shearing shed in the middle of this vineyard that's still used to shear d'Arenberg's Dorper sheep. The hessian sacks hanging from the rafters have attracted a family of tiny fruit bats that hang upside down between the dark folds undisturbed.

THE VINEYARD :

Sub-Region - Beautiful View **Planted** - 1999 **Altitude** - 120m above sea level
Proximity to the Ocean - 9km **Soil** - Shallow Sand and Grey Loam

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. The ability for a wine to age was a primary consideration and with careful cellaring this wine will drink well until at least 2029.

TASTING NOTES :

Restrained purple and red fruits are nicely balanced with appealing floral notes of rose petal and exotic savory spices. Bright and pure mixed berry and plum characters open to layers of complexity including cooked red meat, black olive, Turkish delight and spice on the palate. The fine, grippy fruit tannins are layered and build through the palate for a long finish and are a real feature of the wine.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 93 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 91+ pts eRobertparker.com, 90 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-vine material, the Osborn clan has successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of concentrated, characterful wines.



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