



2009 d'ARENBERG THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE

WINEMAKER:	Chester Osborn
REGION:	McLaren Vale (79%), Adelaide Hills (21%), South Australia
VARIETALS:	Viognier (72%), Marsanne (28%)
MATURATION:	22% in older French and American oak
ANALYSIS:	13.0% alc/vol 7.1 g/L TA 3.24 pH

THE ART OF BEING DIFFERENT:

Many of McLaren Vale's vineyards are on free-draining soils underlain with limestone, formed by the calcareous remains of the local marine fauna. One such creature is the Hermit Crab, a reclusive little creature that inhabits the cast-off shells of others. Thus the Osborn family thought the name appropriate for this blend, as it is best enjoyed with shellfish and seafood dishes.

VINTAGE NOTES:

2009 had sufficient winter rains that set up the vines well with good canopies, particularly in the Adelaide Hills. December and January were very cool with the exception of a few hot days. Mild weather followed allowing the vines to recover from a brief heat spell and finish ripening in low stress conditions.

TASTING NOTES:

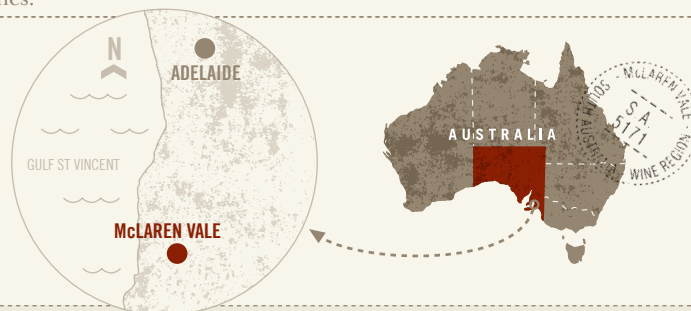
The nose is expressive and rich with orange peel, candied ginger, apricot, and citrus notes. The Marsanne shows itself in the peach and nutty complexity which is married nicely with an appealing straw like vegetal character. The palate has a lovely balance of sweetness, palate weight, and acidity. Lemon and lime characters are prominent on the palate with a lively granny smith apple acidity providing great focus. With some bottle age the stone fruit notes become more prominent with less emphasis on the citrus spectrum.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

90 pts Wine Spectator, 90 pts Wine & Spirits, 89 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.



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