

2009 d'ARENBERG THE LITTLE VENICE 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 :

Fourth generation winemaker Chester Osborn was in Venice when this block was purchased. The water underground the vineyard feeds a nearby spring, providing an abundance of water and inspiring the nickname 'Little Venice.'

THE VINEYARD :

Sub-Region - Beautiful View **Planted** - 1998 **Altitude** - 120m above sea level
Proximity to the Ocean - 9km **Soil** - Shallow brown earth

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.

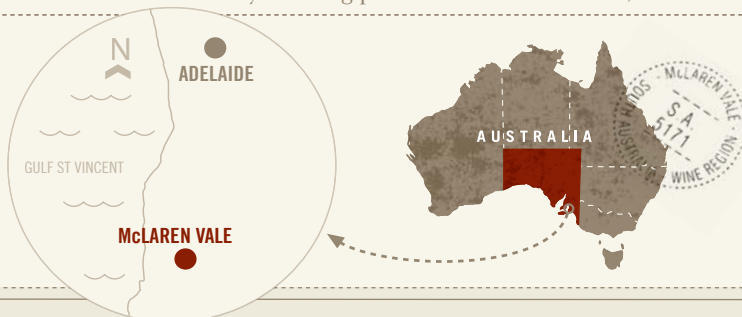
TASTING NOTES :

There is a heady intensity to the nose with an abundance of earth characters. The red fruits sit behind rich gamey aromas, earth, and truffle. The rustic appeal of the nose carries through to the palate with flavors of wild berries, moss, fresh tobacco, shitake mushroom and touches of smoked meat. The textural tannins provide structure and focus to the medium to full bodied palate that finishes long and savory.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 92 pts eRobertparker.com, 92 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 92 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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