



2011 d'ARENBERG THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

WINEMAKER : Chester Osborn
REGION : McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS : Shiraz (90%), Viognier (10%)
MATURATION : 10 months in French and American oak
ANALYSIS : 14.2% alc/vol | TA: 6.6 g/L | pH: 3.52

BACKGROUND :

The bushland that surrounds the d'Arenberg winery is home to the native Australian bird, the Kookaburra, famous for its distinctive laughing call. Chester Osborn's daughters named their two wild pet Kookaburras the "Laughing Magpies", and as the Magpie plumage is black with a stripe of white feathers, the name has stuck and the Osborn's thought this a great name for McLaren Vale's first ever Shiraz (black) and Viognier (white) blend.

WINEMAKING :

Small batches of grapes are gently crushed and transferred to open fermenters, where Viognier and Shiraz are co-fermented. Foot treading is undertaken two thirds of the way through fermentation, the wine is basket pressed and transferred to a mixture of old French and American oak to complete fermentation and mature for up to 10 months.

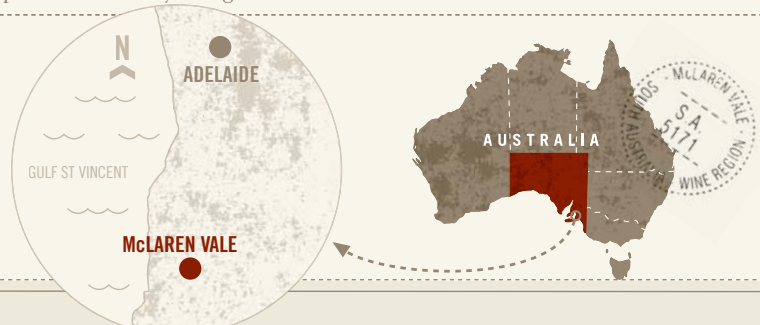
TASTING NOTES :

A dark, complex nose, highlighted with a twist of peppery spice and a subtle undertone of apricot and florals from the Viognier. The palate is similarly dominated by the dark and brooding Shiraz. Fennel, cured meat and beetroot like flavors combine initially but over time some of the more savory and closed notes lift, revealing the fruit sweetness that lies beneath; plums, blackberry and dark cherry. The palate is rich and generous and the tannins have a certain silkiness to them. An exotic, mysterious wine that, in youth, will benefit enormously from a liberal dose of air through decanting.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM : 94 pts James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion, 90 pts Vinous, 88 pts Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate

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 as one of the Top 100 Wineries and Top Value Brands in the world by Wine & Spirits Magazine in 2013, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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