

## 2012 d'ARENBERG THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| WINEMAKER :  | Chester Osborn                          |
| REGION :     | McLaren Vale, South Australia           |
| VARIETALS :  | Viognier (55%), Marsanne (45%)          |
| MATURATION : | 14% in seasoned French and American oak |
| ANALYSIS :   | 13.8% alc/vol   5.9 g/L TA   3.22 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.

### TASTING NOTES :

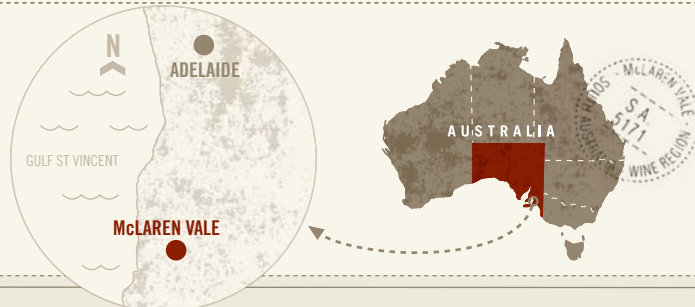
Small batches of grapes are crushed gently and transferred to stainless steel basket presses for a cool ferment. About 3% underwent wild fermentation for extra complexity. 14% of the Viognier is fermented in aged in French and American oak. The Marsanne and Viognier are not blended until the final stages of the winemaking process. The Viognier throws the first punch in this wonderfully aromatic wine with its lift of candied ginger and white nectarine notes. A deeper look unveils the more complex Marsanne characters of green papaya and pistachio. An abundance of stone fruits hold sway over the sumptuous attack and mid-palate. The Marsanne's nuttiness makes the finish surprisingly savory.

### CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

90 pts/BEST BUY Wine & Spirits, 90 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 89 pts Wine Spectator

### 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 4th-generation winemaker Chester Osborn. By maintaining a focus on traditional winemaking and nurturing their old-vine material, the Osborns have successfully established themselves as one of the country's leading producers of expressive, characterful wines. Receiving the accolades Winery of the Year 24 times and Winemaker of the Year seven times, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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