



## 2002 THE CUSTODIAN GRENACHE

### Region

McLaren Vale, South Australia

### Variety

Grenache

### Maturation

New and older  
American and French oak barriques

### Technical Analysis

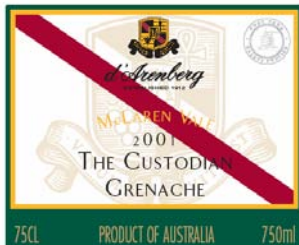
15% alc/vol

### Tasting Notes

The 2002 season was characterized by a cold, wet winter and spring, which produced lower yields with good, thick-skinned berries. The cool and dry summer ripened fruit gradually and a warm, dry autumn allowed the grapes to ripen fully, producing some of the best and most exotic characters seen for many years.

As a young wine, 'The Custodian' shows a dark ruby-purple color, and distinctive rich, ripe, lifted plum, cherry and deep blackcurrant aromas, on top of earthy, spicy, violet, musk and raspberry smells - the essences of Grenache.

Touches of white pepper, tobacco, cinnamon and spice follow onto the full-bodied juicy palate. The rich plum and sweet blackberry fruit flavours are lifted by gentle vanillin and coffee-mocha oak derived flavours, as well as crunchy, fine-grained fruit and mineral tannins.



After some bottle ageing the color becomes a graduated glowing red-brown and the young fruit scented aromas and flavors gradually transform into velvety rich, spicy, strawberry jam, creamy chocolate, earthy and smoky edged aromas. This integration and complexity develops on the palate too, where the young tannin slowly falls away to reveal a seamless, soft sweet rolling middle palate mulberry and prune like fruit with tertiary biscuit, coffee and chewy old leather flavors before a long, soft, dry mouth filling fine acid finish.

### Background

d'Arenberg's rich, luscious reds have always been grenache based and no other Australian winery has so proudly represented the varietal. Hence the name 'The Custodian' as d'Arenberg has kept watch and ward over grenache for 40 years.

### Additional Notes:

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