

2003 d'ARRY'S ORIGINAL SHIRAZ GRENACHE

Region

McLaren Vale, South Australia

Varieties

Shiraz (50%)

Grenache (50%)

Maturation

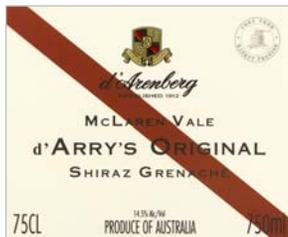
12 months in new & older American & French oak barriques

Technical Analysis

14.5% alc/vol

Background

This wine is named in honor of d'Arenberg's principal, Francis "d'Arry" d'Arenberg Osborn. It is the culmination of more than half a century of d'Arry's winemaking career at his family winery in McLaren Vale. d'Arry's Original blend, first launched some four decades ago, was and is to this day a blend of shiraz and grenache grown on the 19th century low yielding vineyards.



Tasting Notes

The 2003 season was characterized by a very low winter rainfall and a warm spring which signaled the vine to minimize potential crop load. The ripening period was warm producing a crop load of small berries and very pure, ripe fruit characters. Even with a smaller than normal crop load many batches showed excellent fruit characters due to excellent skin to pulp ratios which shows in this wine

In its youth, d'Arry's Original displays a bright deep red color with a crimson watery hue. The nose indicates a wine of medium to full body. There is plenty of intensity with lifted spice, candied red and dark fruits, such as cherry, plum and mulberry and a savory background of an earthy meat element and licorice without obvious signs of oak.

The palate is dominated by grenache fruit characters at present. It shows a wide array of red fruits, savory dried herb then the red cherry, strawberry, mulberry and plum characters become more obvious. A lovely sweet fruit mid palate leads into a very tight earthy ironstone tannic complexity balanced with lovely acidity and lingering strawberry and raspberry notes.

Well-cellared, the d'Arry's Original becomes soft, generous, full-flavored, velvety, long and seamless in the bottle. The impressive sweetness of the wine is retained while the gritty tannin finish of a young wine gives way to long, sweet spiced, McLaren Vale characters with acidity still fresh and active.

Additional Notes:

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