

2006 d'ARENBERG THE CUSTODIAN GRENACHE

WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Grenache
MATURATION: 12 months in new and older American & French oak barriques
ALCOHOL: 14.5% alc/vol

BACKGROUND:

In 1959, Francis d'Arenberg (d'Arny) Osborn began bottling d'Arenberg wines under the now famous Red Stripe label. Today, d'Arenberg is the keeper of nearly 1/3rd of all of McLaren Vale's old Grenache bush vines. d'Arny has now celebrated 65 consecutive vintages, with consistent critical acclaim of their coveted Grenache-based wines.

WINEMAKING:

Winemaker Chester Osborn guides the finest small-batch Grenache parcels from the vintage through the gentle 'Demoisy' crusher, into open fermenters and then into 19th century basket-presses. Natural minimal processing ensures maximum flavor which results in a harmless deposit in the bottle. This wine will benefit from extended bottle aging and decanting.

TASTING NOTES:

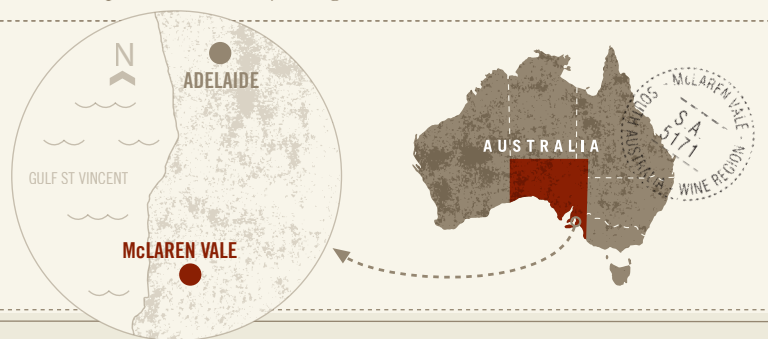
Fragrant Grenache notes of violets, ripe red fruits, spice, licorice and mulberry characters are apparent immediately, while and earthy potpourri notes develop as the wine opens up. The medium-bodied palate is fleshy with a concentrated array of red berries, dark sweet plums, strawberries and spice. This wine is perfectly balanced with fruit weight, tannins and acidity.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

90pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, **89pts** Wine Spectator, **89 pts** Robert Parker's The Wine Advocate, **87 pts BEST BUY** Wine & Spirits

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 among Australia's Top 10 Shiraz producers by Wine & Spirits Magazine in July 2007, this reputation is clearly recognized worldwide.



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