

2009 d'ARENBERG THE LAUGHING MAGPIE SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

WINEMAKER: Chester Osborn
REGION: McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS: Shiraz (92%), Viognier (8%)
MATURATION: 10 months in French and American oak
ANALYSIS: 14.6% alc/vol | TA: 7.4 g/L | pH: 3.31

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:

Very concentrated Shiraz and Viognier were gently crushed then co-fermented together in traditional, headed down open fermenters where the traditional foot-treading in waterclad feet takes place. After about two weeks the must was then gently basket pressed and transferred into American and French oak barriques for maturation. At ten months, declassified Dead Arm is blended to balance the level of Viognier in the final blend.

TASTING NOTES:

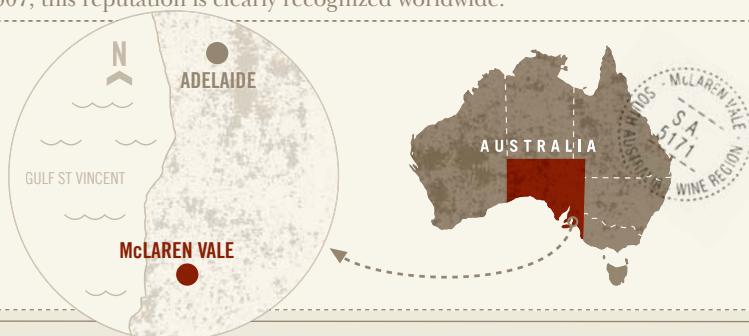
The wine is robust and concentrated with great intensity. The expressive palate reveals touches of raspberry, plum, blackcurrant and blueberry with underlying spice and just a hint of savory oak. The mineral silky tannins build nicely on the palate and provide good structure and impressive length.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM:

91 pts eRobertParker.com, 91 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 91 pts Australian Wine Companion, 89 pts Wine Enthusiast

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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