

2010 d'ARENBERG THE LOVE GRASS SHIRAZ

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	90% McLaren Vale, 5% Adelaide Hills, 5% Fleurieu Peninsula
VARIETALS :	Shiraz (90%), 2% Viognier, 1% Merlot, 1% Pinot Noir, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Souzao, 1% Tempranillo, 1% Sagrantino, 1% Cinsault, 1% Tint Cao
MATURATION :	18 months in new and older American & French oak barriques
ANALYSIS :	14.3% alc/vol 6.7 g/L TA 3.39 pH

BACKGROUND :

A wild grass, the Love Grass, often grows in the vineyards surrounding the d'Arenberg winery. During vintage, the sticky, Velcro-like, long stemmed flowers of the Love Grass affectionately attach themselves to the vineyard workers' socks. This Shiraz will also linger with you and, as such, the family thought it fitting to name this wine 'The Love Grass.'

VINTAGE NOTES :

Above average autumn rains set the vines up well. There was some heat during flowering which reduced crop levels, but with no ill-effects on quality. More warm weather in January as the reds were going through veraison, this did no damage, but did encourage an early start to vintage. The day time temperatures were mild throughout ripening with mild to cool nights.

TASTING NOTES :

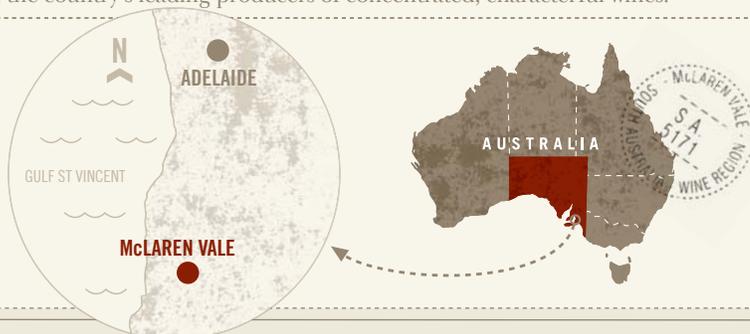
Initially the nose is dominated by lifted Shiraz notes of sweet, plums and rich, dark licorice. As the wine opens, the cocktail of varieties clinging to the Shiraz becomes more evident. At first, pretty, perfumed notes are revealed. Think musk and violets. Then the more exotic aromatics of warm, Indian spices and freshly turned earth appear. The complexity is just as provocative on the palate. A lovely cooked rhubarb character adds sweetness but vibrant acidity at the same time. The sweet fruits are balanced with restraining savory notes of cured meat and black olive.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

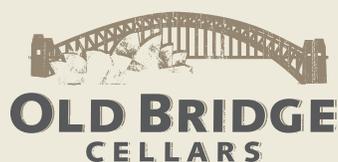
90 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, 88 pts Wine Spectator

ABOUT d'ARENBERG :

One of the undisputed kings of Australian Shiraz and Rhone varieties, 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.



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