

## 2011 d'ARENBERG THE HERMIT CRAB VIOGNIER MARSANNE

WINEMAKER :	Chester Osborn
REGION :	McLaren Vale, South Australia
VARIETALS :	Viognier (74%), Marsanne (26%)
MATURATION :	13% in seasoned French and American oak
ANALYSIS :	13.4% alc/vol   6.7 g/L TA   3.28 pH

### THE ART OF BEING DIFFERENT :

Many of McLaren Vale's vineyards are on free-draining soils underlain with limestone, formed by the calcareous remains of the local marine fauna. One such creature is the Hermit Crab, a reclusive little creature that inhabits the cast-off shells of others. Thus the Osborn family thought the name appropriate for this blend, as it is best enjoyed with shellfish and seafood dishes.

### TASTING NOTES :

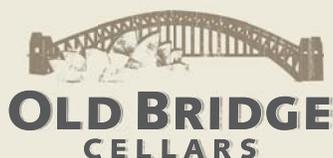
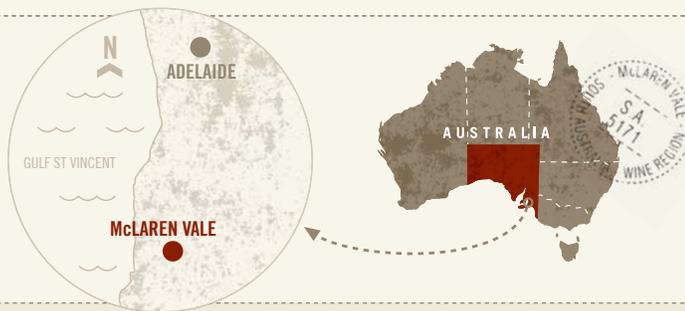
Contrary to a lot of what was written about the 2011 vintage, sound fruit, particularly from white grapes benefited from the cooler conditions, producing wines of grace and finesse. The Hermit Crab is a great example of this. Stylistically it is sitting in the white peach and nectarine zone accompanied by a hedonistic ginger and spice character. Florals abound. The palate is slightly more restrained than what we would normally associate with McLaren Vale Viognier and Marsanne and again those crunchy, white stone fruit characters are at the fore. An exotic pistachio, green almond character (thank you Marsanne), draws the wine back in, leading to a long savory and mineral finish. Not a hint of fatness.

### CRITICAL ACCLAIM :

91 pts/Best Buy Wine & Spirits, 89 pts Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar

### 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.



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